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Kerala Governor urged to reject language Bill

BENGALURU
The Karnataka government has taken objection to the Malayalam Bhasha Bill, 2025, and urged Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanth Arlekar to reject the bill. Karnataka has termed the bill as "unconstitutional". » PAGE 8

Panel submits report to SC on Bannerghatta

BENGALURU
The Central Empowered Committee, constituted by the Supreme Court to look into the reduction in the eco-sensitive zone around the Bannerghatta National Park, submitted its report to the top court on Wednesday. » PAGE 2

Govt. pegs FY26 growth at 7.4% amid tariff concerns

Higher estimate comes amid uncertainties and 50% U.S. tariffs hitting labour-intensive sectors hard; with Q1 and Q2 growing at 7.8% and 8.2%, second half will see average growth slow to 6.8%

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

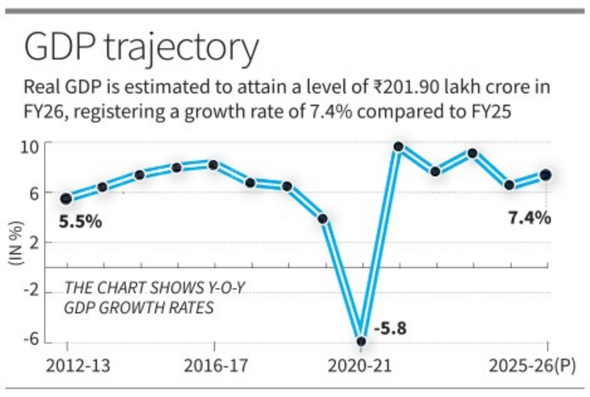
The Union government has estimated that real growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country will stand at 7.4% in the current financial year 2025-26, up from 6.5% recorded the previous year.

In the First Advance Estimates (FAE) of GDP for 2025-26, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Wednesday, the government said that nominal growth for the year would be 8%.

The FAE for any year is important as it forms the basis for various calculations and ratios used in preparing the Union Budget.

The First Advance Estimates, and the Second Advance Estimates, which will be released on February 27, are forecasts of the full year's growth based on data available up to that point. The Provisional Estimates for 2025-26, based on the full-year's data, will be released on May 30.

Based on the Centre's assessment that the full year's growth would be 7.4%, and the fact that Q1 and Q2 saw 7.8% and 8.2% growth respectively, the second half of the year would see average growth slow to 6.8%.



Braving headwinds

In December, the Reserve Bank of India had said that GDP growth in 2025-26 would be 7.3%, with Q3 growing at 7% and Q4 at 6.5%.

These projections come at a time when India's economy is facing several headwinds. The 50% tariff levied by the U.S. on imports from India has hit several labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, textiles, and engineering goods. The government has tried to boost consumer demand through both direct tax and indirect tax rate cuts, but the data show it nevertheless expects Private Final Consumption Expenditure, a metric that captures consumer spending, to grow at 7% in 2025-26, marginally slower than the 7.2% recorded last year.

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SC in 'disagreement' with Justice Varma's claims on LS Speaker

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said on Wednesday that it *prima facie* disagreed with Justice Yashwant Varma's claim that Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had overstepped the statutory rigour of the Judges (Inquiry) Act by "unilaterally" constituting a committee to examine allegations about the sacks of half-burnt currency found on the premises of the judge's official residence in Delhi in March 2025.

The Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and S.C. Sharma orally expressed its *prima facie* disagreement with the contention raised by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Justice Varma, that the Deputy Chairman had no authority to "step into the shoes" of the Rajya Sabha Chairman and reject the notice of motion submitted in the Upper House.

Justice Yashwant Varma

Justice Varma is currently a sitting judge of the Allahabad High Court. After a notice of motion was submitted by over 140 Lok Sabha MPs for the removal of Justice Varma in July 2025, Mr. Birla had constituted a three-member inquiry committee under the Act on August 12, 2025.

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Ballari clash: government transfers DIG

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/BALLARI

Close on the heels of the transfer of the Superintendent of Police of Ballari, following a clash that claimed the life of a Congress party worker, the Karnataka government transferred the jurisdictional Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Varthika Katiyar as well.

The DIG has been replaced by P. S. Harsha, a senior officer of the Inspector General of Police rank.

The decision comes amid heightened scrutiny of the handling of the incident, which triggered political outrage and demands for accountability. Former Chief Minister and Union Minister H. D. Kumarswamy had questioned why there was no action against the DIG when she was also in Ballari town when the incident happened.

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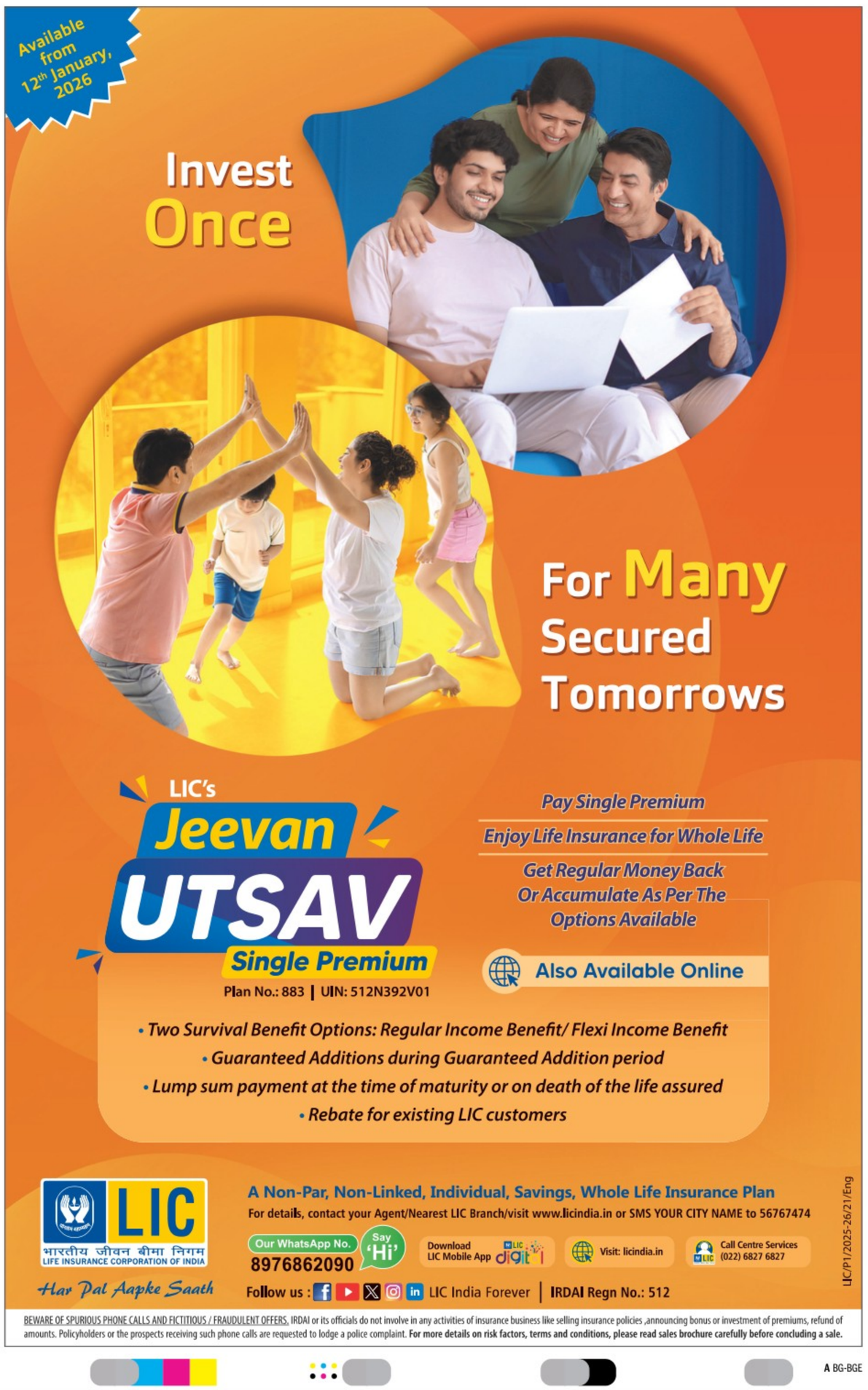
» PAGE 8



A BG-BGE

How Indian badminton stayed in the conversation without big conquests

Satwik and Chirag reached the climactic phase in many tournaments but failed to go the distance; Sindhu and Lakshya were not at their consistent best; the absence of depth made it a tougher pill to swallow, making the country's presence a peripheral one at the global level

Devyanshi Bihani

As the new season dawned after a subdued BWF World Tour Finals episode, Indian badminton finds itself in limbo – neither in free fall nor on a golden high.

The year 2025 did not deliver the sort of title count or sustained presence among the world's best that once seemed routine. But India did not entirely fade from the sport's global conversation. That distinction, limited as it may sound, was carried almost entirely by one pairing: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty.

The men's doubles duo ended 2025 without a title, a rarity in their otherwise decorated partnership but remained India's most reliable presence in the latter stages of top-tier tournaments. Sat-Chi played 16 tournaments and reached finals twice and made 9 top-four appearances.

Across Super 500, Super 750 and Super 1000 level, they appeared frequently in quarterfinals and semifinals, occasionally pushing into finals, often emerging as India's last remaining challenge though they fell short of converting opportunities into titles. For most countries, such returns might suggest regression but for India it highlighted scarcity.

Their season was respectable primarily because it prevented Indian badminton from slipping out of the elite conversation, even as it represented many steps down from the duo's own past benchmarks.

Moments not momentum

Lakshya Sen began the year as India's strongest bet in Men's singles discipline, carrying the expectation that he would anchor the transition into the post-Tokyo, pre-Los Angeles cycle.

The issue was not an absence of quality, Lakshya remained capable of troubling the world's best. The 24-year-old's standout moment came at the Australian Open Super 500 in Sydney, where he ended a long title drought with a straight-games win over Japan's Yushi Tanaka in the final. The week had tested him far more severely, with Sen spending 85 minutes in a demanding semifinal and also overcoming Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen earlier in the tournament.

He celebrated by shutting out the noise, eyes closed and fingers in his ears, signalling a rare moment of relief in an uneven season. But the inability to sustain momentum across consecutive tournaments punctuated the calendar. In a circuit designed to reward consistency through cumulative ranking points and qualification thresholds, sporadic excellence proved insufficient.

Former World No. 1 and World championship silver medallist, K. Srikanth's year, following a familiar pattern in men's singles, was marked by a single peak amid frequent early exits. The 32-year-old's run to the final of the Malaysia Masters briefly revived memories of why he is regarded among the sport's most gifted shot-makers. For a week in Kuala Lumpur, he dictated rallies through placement and variation, and the India-China final on that Sunday served as a reminder of his 2017 peak.

That week aside, the broader picture aligned with what unfolded across the discipline, with both experienced internationals Srikanth and H.S. Prannoy struggling to sustain intensity across consecutive tournaments, marked by repeated round-of-16 losses and early exits. Srikanth's resurgence in Kuala Lumpur showed that the skill remains intact, but its isolation only reinforced the larger problem: Indian badminton continues to rely on episodic returns from seasoned players rather than the steady emergence of a younger cohort capable of carrying tournaments week after week.

Beyond Sen, younger men's singles players showed flashes, an upset here, a quarterfinal there but none imposed themselves often enough to alter India's competitive standing.

While India has five men's singles players inside the world's top 50, those expected to take the baton, including Kiran George (25), Priyanshu Rajawat (23) and M. Tharun (23), have struggled to put together consistent runs. However, the 20-year-old Ayush Shetty has emerged as the most promising long-term prospect, though his impact at the highest level is still taking shape.

"It is going to take another couple of years. We have Lakshya, who is still young, and the way he's going, I think he's going to be there for a fair bit. Ayush is coming up, Tharun was the next in line, Kiran George is anyway there. But there is inconsistency in them. Priyanshu came and then got injured, but his best is yet to come, probably next year. Others have to mature," P. Kashyap, former India star and now a coach, had told *The Hindu*.

The post-Sindhu question

P.V. Sindhu's struggles through the season were marked by recurring patterns that became hard to ignore. As the significant share of her defeats came not from being outplayed early, but from an inability to close out games.

At the Sudirman Cup, she led Line Kjaersfeldt 20-16 in the opening game and 19-12 in the second, yet lost both. Similar collapses surfaced across the tour against Thuy Linh Nguyen at the Indonesia Masters, where she surrendered a 20-14 lead, similarly against Tujung at the India Open and Yeo Jia Min at China Masters after being comfortably ahead. Despite holding leads or being level late in games, Sindhu repeatedly conceded runs of points at decisive moments.

At 29, retirement is not imminent for a player with two Olympic and five World Championship medals, but the absence of clarity around a post-Sindhu era has become increasingly evident. For nearly a decade following the Saina Nehwal era, Sindhu's presence provided insulation against systemic weaknesses.

The most notable moment of promise came when Unnati Hooda defeated Sindhu at the China Open, a result that drew attention not merely because of the upset, but because she became the only Indian woman in the last five years to beat Sindhu. The 17-year-old won a three-game (21-16, 19-21, 21-13) contest by absorbing Sindhu's attack and forcing longer exchanges, relying on defensive solidity, patience and precise placement to force errors late in games. Hooda claimed the opening game, conceded the second narrowly, and pulled clear decisively in the decider.

Another glimpse of promise came through Tanvi Sharma, whose upset of former world champion Nozomi Okuhara at the Syed Modi International Super 300 briefly shifted attention to the next rung of talent. The 16-year-old recovered from a one-sided opening game to win a three-game contest, showing composure well beyond her years by matching the Olympic medallist's shot for shot as the match wore on. The game ended with the Japanese player missing a drop shot at the left corner of the court, the final error from Okuhara met with a brief smile that seemed to acknowledge the resistance. The victory, which followed Tanvi's silver medal at the World junior championships earlier in the year and her run to the US Open final, underlined her ability to reset mid-match and handle sustained pressure.

Beyond those isolated breakthroughs, India's women's singles landscape remains crowded with promise but short on readiness. Anmol Kharb, still only 17, has emerged as one of the more assured prospects, with a measured game and has already delivered domestic success. Malvika Bansod, the 23-year-old has defeated Olympic medal winners twice in her career, Surya Charishma Tamiri (19), the new women's singles national champion, Anupama Upadhyaya (20), and Isharani Baruah (21) have hovered around the fringes of consistency, each offering distinct strengths but also clear limitations whether in recovering from injury, finishing power, defensive compactness or physical intensity.

In women's doubles, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand's season also highlighted the tactical ceiling they are still working to breach. Their Super 300 title at the Syed Modi International came through control rather than overwhelming attack, as the pair has increasingly prioritised stability- rally length, pace control and positioning as a foundation for aggression. Against higher-ranked, Japanese, Korean and Chinese pairs, however, the margins became clearer.

India's women landscape remains rich in potential, but potential alone has not translated into regular late-round appearances at the sport's highest level.

While the mixed doubles showed a rare breakthrough, with Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila reaching the World championships quarterfinals after upsetting a top-five pair, India's first last-eight appearance in the discipline since Satwik and Ashwini Ponnappa in 2018.

The depth deficit

The contrast with the sport's leading nations such as China, Japan, Indonesia and Denmark routinely placed two or three players into the business end of major tournaments. Even when one faltered, another advanced. India, by contrast, often found its campaign resting on one or two names and when those names stumbled early, the week effectively ended. This gap was most visible at the Grade 1 tournaments, where the depth of opposition magnified inconsistencies.

SatChi exemplified this paradox. Their ability to remain competitive without winning titles kept India visible. That a title-less season from one pair still stands out as the year's most consistent achievement is both a witness to their resilience and an indictment of the broader ecosystem.

"There was no centralised programme or even a plan to provide systemic training for the juniors earlier. We had two centres – in Bengaluru and Hyderabad – and only the top senior players would be training there, barring an occasional youngster who either had the means or was exceptional. With the NCoE in Guwahati, that has changed. It will take some time, but in the next three years, I am convinced we will see an entire generation of players dominating Indian and world badminton just like the previous one," Badminton Association of India general secretary Sanjay Mishra had told *The Hindu*.

For now, Satwik and Chirag have ensured that India has not disappeared from the elite conversation. But a sport of this scale cannot afford to rely on a single partnership to carry that burden. Until a broader base of players begins to regularly populate the latter stages of top-tier tournaments, Indian badminton's global standing will remain precarious – present, but peripheral.

Giving it her all: Sindhu pushed hard but wasn't rewarded too much. K.V.S. GIRI

THE GIST

- SatChi were Indian badminton's most consistent presence in 2025, reaching multiple semifinals and finals despite ending the season without a title
- Lakshya won the Australian Open Super 500, but inconsistency marked the seasons of Srikanth and Prannoy
- Sindhu's year was marred by repeated late-match collapses. Unnati and Tanvi finding only isolated breakthroughs raised questions about succession

Restore ecozone around Bannerghatta: SC panel report

The Central Empowered Committee has recommended to restore a 2016 draft notification and cancel a 2020 notification which warrants reconsideration and shall be withdrawn by MoEFCC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Empowered Committee (CEC), constituted by the Supreme Court to look into the reduction in the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP), in its report submitted to the apex court on Wednesday, has recommended to restore a 2016 draft notification and cancel a 2020 notification which reduces the ESZ.

Chandra Prakash Goyal, member, Central Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court, during his visit to the Bannerghatta National Park recently. K. MURALI KUMAR

The report was filed following a recent visit by a CEC member to the BNP in response to a petition arguing that the notification regarding the reduction of the ESZ has excluded ecologically critical areas surrounding established elephant corridors from the ESZ and that the adoption of a one-km ESZ norm for the protected area of the forest ignores site-specific ecological requirements.

According to the report, the ESZ initially proposed around BNP in the draft notification dated June 15, 2016, covering an area of 268.96 sq. km was reduced to 181.57 sq. km. and thereafter to 168.84 sq. km. in the final notification dated March 11, 2020.

"The CEC notes that these successive reductions were effected without any demonstrable scientific, ecological or landscape level assessment being placed on record to justify such curtailment of the ESZ extent," the report states.

In its recommendation, the CEC said that the final ESZ notification of 2020 insofar as it excludes scientifically identified elephant corridors and ecologically important patches forming part of the BNP landscape, warrants reconsideration and shall be withdrawn by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), forthwith.

It added that the original ESZ extent of 268.96 sq. km, as in the 2016 draft notification, shall be fully restored and said that the identified elephant corridors connecting BNP with adjoining forest landscapes require continued protection and strengthening through regulatory and management measures.

Human-animal conflict

"In view of the increasing incidence of human-elephant conflict in the southern, western, south-eastern and south-western parts of BNP, particularly in and around the villages of Herandyapanahalli, Tippuru, Bijahalli, Bommasandra, Hosadurga, Salbanni and Guddeveeranahosahallu, where the ESZ is presently delineated at 100 metres and which lie along elephant movement pathways between the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and BNP, a review of the existing ESZ delineation, including buffer width, shall be considered to strengthen the forest habitation interface and support mitigation of human elephant conflict," it further added.

In six months

It has also recommended that the entire exercise to re-notify the ESZ of BNP be completed within the next six months.

The CEC has also noted that the decision to reduce the ESZ was taken in the Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting Chaired by the Karnataka Environment Minister in 2017 and that this is contrary to para 6.2 of the 2011 Guidelines for Declaration of ESZ around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

The guidelines require the State government to constitute a committee comprising the Chief Wildlife Warden, an ecologist, a representative of the local self-government and an officer of the Revenue Department to assess and recommend the appropriate extent of the ESZ for its management and the activities incorporated in the master plan for the region.

"The revised proposal for reduction in ESZ is in violation of the 2011 guidelines," it said.

Survey flags 264 dead trees, 1,427 hazardous branches across city

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Over 250 trees along arterial roads across the city are likely to face the axe, as a mid-survey report by the City Corporation has identified them as dead. The condition of the trees was assessed as part of a first-of-its-kind survey taken up by the civic bodies in the wake of a series of deaths caused by tree falls in 2025.

In the first phase of the survey, the corporations have identified 264 dead trees and 1,427 branches that need to be axed. The survey found that 141 trees are hollow, 72 are insect-infested and diseased, and 138 trees have concrete around their bases.

Activists see this scientific enumeration as a positive development, as it focuses on tree health. Activist Vijay Nishanth said the exercise would not only help fix accountability but also lead to a better understanding of the overall health of trees in the city.

"Bengaluru's population has reached 1.4 crore, and urbanisation has accelerated. In such a situation, this scientific survey will help us save trees by extending treatment to infested ones," he said, adding that many trees can be saved every year through early identification of bad tree health.

Survey of trees

Particulars	BNCC	BSCC	BECC	BWCC	BCCC	Total
Dead trees	25	23	139	33	44	264
Dead branches	35	304	272	501	315	1,427
Hollowed trees	40	44	13	15	29	141
Insect infested	05	32	15	16	04	72
Trees concreted around	70	34	17	09	08	138

Note: BNCC (Bengaluru north city corporation). For south (BSCC), east (BECC), west (BWCC), and central (BCCC).

He pointed out that trees with their bases covered in concrete can be saved. In addition, more trees can be planted at the exact location of felled trees, if conditions are favourable, instead of merely concreting the surface.

Sudarshan G.K., Deputy Conservator of Forests, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), told *The Hindu* that tomography tests would be conducted to verify whether trees are hollow before they are felled. "For diseased trees, we will assess the health condition and check whether they can be treated. If the disease appears untreatable and poses a risk to the public, we will axe them," he said.

In the case of dead trees, officials will conduct health tests to confirm whether the tree is indeed dead before axing it. "The removal process will include a joint mahazar by the DFO, RFO, and ACF, along with local witnesses. Soon, we will begin the work to ensure that all hazardous trees are removed or treated before the monsoon begins," Mr. Sudarshan told *The Hindu*.

However, the survey is unlikely to be completed before the monsoon, as only seven surveyors are currently in the field.

While the identification and removal of hazardous trees are part of routine work, officials of the erstwhile BBMP had done little, leading to public backlash in 2025. The government had even transferred the then DCF following a tree fall incident that killed a 29-year-old man in south Bengaluru. However, it was the previous DCF who had planned the scientific enumeration.

The year 2025 recorded the highest number of tree falls in a single year, crossing the 1,000 mark with 1,222 incidents. Considering the severity of the situation and four deaths in a single year, the GBA hired eight fresh BSc graduates to enumerate hazardous trees along arterial roads. The civic authority trained the students and tasked them with the survey in December 2025.

"Eight students are not enough to cover the rest of the city, especially when the entire BBMP could not do it earlier. Even the tree census is lagging behind," an official said. "This is a good initiative, and the GBA should consider hiring more graduates on an honorarium basis and continue the survey," he added.

Five booked for misappropriation of funds amounting to ₹4-cr. at private school trust

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has registered an FIR against five persons, including the chief accountant of a private school, in connection with alleged large-scale financial irregularities and misappropriation of funds amounting to ₹4 crore at the Kamala Muniyappa Educational Trust, which has been running an educational institution since 2010.

The accused were required to maintain proper accounts and submit them for audit, but allegedly failed to do so, as per the complainant

The accused, identified as Sagar H.N., Murali, Mohan, Manoj, and others, have been booked under Sections 316 (criminal breach of trust), 318 (cheating), and 61 (criminal conspiracy) of BNS.

The case was registered based on a complaint lodged by Ashoka K.M., owner of Edify School operated by the trust.

According to the complaint, the accused were required to maintain proper accounts and submit them for audit, but allegedly failed to do so.

It is further alleged that the chief accounts officer and an auditor were appointed only on paper, while the financial affairs of the trust were allegedly handled arbitrarily by the trust office-bearers.

The complainant alleged that the accused created false records, manipulated account books, and diverted trust funds for personal use. Police said that from 2017 onwards, the accused allegedly misappropriated nearly ₹4 crore belonging to the trust and the school by transferring funds into their own accounts and those of their relatives.

It was alleged that school fees collected from students was falsely entered in receipt books, with the actual amounts being diverted and misused.

The accused are further alleged to have forged documents and suppressed financial records to conceal the misappropriation.

NGO rescues 14 illegally relocated puppies in Chickballapur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Allegations against educational institutions over the illegal relocation of dogs from their campuses in Bengaluru and surrounding districts have increased over the past month, even as the Supreme Court has laid down detailed procedures for relocation.

While several NGOs have taken to social media to raise awareness about the growing problem, others are working on the ground to curb illegal relocation. Many NGOs are relying on videos posted by citizens and are reaching out to educational institutions with evidence to hold them accountable.

In a recent incident, a polytechnic college in Chickballapur has been accused of abandoning 15 puppies belonging to three dogs. On January 5, a collective of NGOs claimed to have rescued 13 puppies, near Nandi Hills, that were allegedly abandoned by the polytechnic college.

In a video reviewed by *The Hindu*, a security guard, a driver, and a helper are seen arriving in a van belonging to the college and abandoning the puppies. According to the volunteers who rescued them, one of the 15 puppies was run over by a vehicle, and another was injured and is currently being treated. The remaining 13 puppies have been reunited with their mothers.

The collective has taken an undertaking from the college that it will not relocate dogs again. "We did not initiate any legal proceedings, as the college admitted to the act and promised not to repeat it," a volunteer said.

Priyam Chhetri, a member of the collective, said educational institutions and civic bodies are reading the Supreme Court judgment proactively. "The Supreme Court has prescribed detailed steps for relocation, but these institutions are flouting them," she said.

Meanwhile, many college students are posting on social media about dogs missing from their campuses. The collective is working on cases highlighted by social media users.

Officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said they have not received any complaint of illegal relocation.

"We have collated data from all corporations on stray dogs in educational institutions and private companies. Corporations have identified locations to build relocation infrastructure, and the work will be taken forward in coordination with NGOs," an official said.

A senior official told *The Hindu* that four corporations have identified land parcels while one is yet to do so. Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has submitted an affidavit to the Supreme Court on stray dog numbers and infrastructure development.

3 die in boiler accident in Belagavi sugar factory

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Three workers died in a boiler accident in the factory of Inamdar Sugars in Marakumbi village near Bailhongal of Belagavi district on Wednesday.

Akshay Topade, Deepak Munnoli and Sudarshan Banoshi died of burns. Five others who were injured are receiving treatment.

The police said that the accident was reported from Compartment Number One where workers had gathered to repair a heat valve.

A case has been registered in the Murgod Police Station. Superintendent of Police K. Ramarajan visited the spot.

Inamdar Sugars is a private factory that has family members of the former MLA D.B. Inamdar and KLE Society chairman Prabhakar Kore as members of the governing board. Mr. Kore and Mr. Vikram Inamdar are directors, while Amit Kore serves as the Managing Director.

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

Founder's Day celebrations held at Reva University

REVA University celebrated Founder's Day on January 6, 2026, at its campus to mark the birthday of its Chancellor, Dr. P. Shyama Raju. The event honoured Air Chief Marshal Fali H. Major, diplomat Nirupama Menon Rao, and actress Jayasudha with the REVA Lifetime Achievement Award for their exceptional contributions to society. Dr. Raju reflected on his journey and highlighted values such as ethics, discipline, and hard work as the true essence of education. The awardees shared insights on leadership, integrity, social responsibility, and perseverance. As part of the celebrations, the university unveiled RIA, an AI-powered humanoid developed by REVA students and faculty, underscoring its commitment to innovation and academic excellence.

Project Expo at Sapthagiri NPS University

The School of Engineering and Technology at Sapthagiri NPS University organized Project Expo 2025-26, showcasing 450 student projects from various departments. The expo featured innovative hardware and software solutions addressing real-world problems. Inaugurating the event, Registrar Dr. H. Ramakrishna highlighted the importance of project work in applying classroom learning, fostering creativity, and improving employability and entrepreneurial skills, while emphasizing the need for strong communication and practical skills. Dean Dr. N. C. Mahindra Babu encouraged students to integrate Artificial Intelligence thoughtfully, stressing that innovation must go beyond AI tools. Key exhibits included smart waste management, agricultural sprinklers, security systems, games, booking software, chatbots, and IPL auction applications. The event was attended by coordinators, faculty, and students.

34th Convocation Ceremony at Dr. MGR Educational and Research Institute University

Dr. MGR Educational and Research Institute University held its 34th Convocation Ceremony at the A.C.S. Convention Centre situated within the campus of A.C.S. Medical College and Hospital, Chennai. The solemn academic gathering took place in the presence of eminent dignitaries, faculty members, graduating students, and their families. The ceremony was conducted under the esteemed guidance of Dr. A. C. Shanmugam, CM; Sri A.C.S. Arun Kumar, President; Smt. Lalitha Lakshmi, Managing Trustee; Sri A. Ravikumar, Secretary; Prof. S. Geethalakshmi, VC; Padmanabhan, VP; Prof. Dr. C. B. Palanivelu, Registrar (Dr. MGR University); along with several other distinguished dignitaries. The convocation was presided over by the Honourable Vice-President of India, Sri C. P. Radhakrishnan, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Sri Nainar Nagenthran, MLA, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and BJP Leader, attended the event as the Guest of Honour. Delivering the Convocation Address, the Honourable Vice-President, Sri C. P. Radhakrishnan, commended Dr. A. C. Shanmugam for his visionary leadership in establishing numerous educational institutions and hospitals that have contributed significantly to education, employment, and healthcare. The 34th Convocation Ceremony concluded leaving the graduates inspired as they embarked on the next phase of their professional journey.

XIME's PGDM Programme Earns Prestigious EFMD Accreditation: Becomes the 1st B-School in India to receive it for 5 Years

Xavier Institute of Management & Entrepreneurship (XIME) has announced that its flagship PGDM programme, offered across its Bengaluru, Kochi, and Chennai campuses, has received the prestigious EFMD Programme Accreditation for five years, marking a major milestone in its three-decade journey. With this achievement, XIME becomes the first B-school in India to earn this accreditation for the maximum duration, placing it among a select group of globally recognized institutions. .Prof. J. Philip, Principal Founder of XIME, expressed deep pride in this achievement. The EFMD accreditation acknowledges XIME's high standards in academic quality, ethical leadership, governance, and global relevance. Leaders from XIME and EFMD praised the institute's strong engagement with industry, focus on Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability (ERS), and its clear values-driven approach. For students and stakeholders, the accreditation ensures internationally benchmarked education, enhanced employability, stronger recruiter confidence, and expanded opportunities for global collaborations and exchanges. The recognition also highlights XIME's Learning-by-Doing pedagogy, which emphasizes experiential learning through live projects, simulations, and entrepreneurial initiatives.

Can private reserves restore wildlife and keep tourism gentle?

Private reserves are popular in Africa; in India, responsible private reserves are more about potential than reality; in dissecting how wildlife returned to Jabarkhet Nature Reserve and how it has balanced tourism needs with conservation, it is possible to trace a model for private reserves in India

Neha Sinha

Rufous sibia pictured against verdant foliage at the reserve. NEHA SINHA

"A pathway to the left leads up to a rather extensive plateau for the hills, and forms a very pleasant resort for picnics... There is plenty of room for a good foot-race, and the scenery around, from most points, magnificent. Ponies ... can go up all the way."

– Guide to Masuri, Landour, Dehra Dun, John Northam, 1884

A bird with a rufous body and a mohawk sings sweetly, the sound wafting over us. Its head is black, its body orange, but despite the colours, it merges seamlessly into the leaves around it. That is because the leaves are thick, their diversity giving them different colours. There are oaks, deodars, rhododendrons, and walnut trees, and on the ground, where the Rufous Sibia dives after finishing its warbles, there are nodding ferns and thick inches of leaf litter which no one has swept up. Above our heads, there are scythes in the sky: Himalayan griffon vultures soaring slowly, with all the time in the world.

When you think of wildlife tourism in India, the options are pre-determined. There are safaris inside tiger reserves or there are National Parks, where you enter in Gypsy cars, at stipulated times, and never get off. These are the most well-known kinds of wildlife tourism, but crowding of the star animal – such as a tiger or elephant – is not unheard of. Then there are trails and hides where you can walk as part of other guided tours, usually on community land.

This is usually for the hardcore wildlife-lover, out for a particular sighting of a rare bird. Could there also be a third option, where you can amble at your own pace, in restored woodland, and where wildlife always gets the first right of way, away from mass tourism? Could there, in essence, be picnics without trash, and could this be achieved without emptying one's pockets?

Abounding with wildlife

In 2025, the Jabarkhet Nature Reserve (JNR), near Mussoorie, turned ten years old. This is Uttarakhand's first privately owned and operated nature reserve, meant to conserve wildlife and habitat as a primary goal.

The 1907 Guide to Mussoorie describes the hills around Dehradun as abounding with wildlife:

"These hills are clad with thick forest composed chiefly of Sal [*Shorea robusta*] and Sain [this could potentially refer to the crocodile bark tree or the *Terminalia tomentosa*]. The pine grows on the higher crests, and they were the home of many wild animals; tigers, leopards, sloth-bears, hyenas, deer, pig and porcupine used to abound in the jungles."

In JNR, similar sightings are possible today: leopard, barking deer, goral, yellow-throated marten, leopard cat, jungle cat, black bear, porcupine, wild boar, red fox, jackal, black-naped hare, civet, and sambar. But this was not an easy journey.

Private reserves are popular in Africa. In India, however, with 'eco-tourism' labels being used in arbitrary ways, perhaps responsible private reserves are more about potential than reality. In dissecting how wildlife returned to JNR and how it has balanced tourism needs with conservation, it is possible to trace a model for private reserves in India.

Slowing down the overuse

More than 40 years ago, alarmed by massive deforestation in the hills, the government called for a ban on tree-cutting above 1,000 metres in (then) Uttar Pradesh. In the 1960s, the Jain family, owners of the Jabarkhet Estate, created a working plan for the area with the forest department. The forest was divided into compartments, dead trees were logged, and new ones were planted. Over the years, even this was discontinued and the Estate lay unused and largely unmanaged.

In the intervening areas, Jabarkhet, once described as a 'picnic' spot by Northam in 1889, became more and more crowded. Many different people used the Jabarkhet Estate then, to collect forest produce, as a recreational site, and also to hunt. In 2010, it was evident the area needed stewardship.

"We removed 500 kg of garbage from the slopes. Three tonnes of the weed *Eupatorium* were removed," JNR co-founder Sejal Worah said. "Before we did this, in the intervening years, the forest was badly overused with little management. I was so saddened to see the place where I grew up strewn with rubbish."

If JNR's fortunes had to be turned around, it would both benefit as well as

Is it possible that you could stroll around at your own pace, in restored woodland, a place where wildlife gets the right of way, away from mass tourism? Could there, in essence, be picnics without trash, and could this be done without emptying one's pockets?

suffer from proximity to tourism-glutted Mussoorie. Mussoorie is so stuffed with hotels and "getaways" that it's easy to forget its name comes from its natural beauty, the red-berried masuri bush. The challenge then was to create a kind of tourism that didn't further take from the mountain, that didn't promise helipads, fake fountains and adventure sports, but a slower form of taking in the Himalayas.

And if it was to be eco-tourism, the benefits had to accrue to the local population. But this wasn't easy because of the locals' suspicion; they were used to seeing outsiders coming in and "developing" one natural area after another.

The reserve, which now offers affordable ticketed trails, started with selecting people from the neighbouring villages, training them to be guides, and employing them for restoration and maintenance work. This was new for the area, a combination of traditional skills of deeply knowing the mountains and learning bird names in English.

"I didn't think my passion for wildlife could become a job. I want to do this always," Virendra Singh, a naturalist at JNR, said. His favourite wildlife memory is seeing a leopard cub sunning itself on a rock in JNR while the world shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A leopard cub sunning itself at the reserve. JABARKHET NATURE RESERVE

An important refuge

There might be a lot more to see, but this can only happen if we protect natural stands of habitat without shears or with artificial beautification. In 1848, malacologist and snail collector William Benson found a brown land snail (*Bradybaena radicicola*) in the slopes around Jabarkhet. Because JNR could be protected, it can also be studied.

True to its Himalayan roots, the area has incredible diversity: insectivorous sundews, ground orchids, more than 40 species of ferns, and hundreds of species of fungi, dozens of grass species, over 300 types of flowers, and over 150 bird species in about 100 acres of land.

This is more significant when we realise that places known for their natural beauty, whether the Himalayas or the Aravallis, are increasingly being cut up for mining and other commercial projects.

In the Himalaya, widening roads for activities like tourism causes landslides every year. For the Aravallis, the Supreme Court recently accepted a definition of the hills that would have excluded geologically important slopes and ridges, paving the way for ways to use land that does not respect natural topographies or histories. This means, at the landscape level, every stand of natural habitat we can save will be an important stepping stone or refuge for wildlife.

Can we see a rise of private reserves in India where wildlife gets the right of way, and where natural history can return to the present?

(Neha Sinha is a conservation biologist and author of Wild Capital: Discovering Nature in Delhi (2026) *nehabnhs@gmail.com)*

File photo of Chinese students at the Beijing Foreign Studies University. AFP

Overseas scholars are sold on China's scientific clout, generous funding

Agence France Presse

China's government has long made efforts to tempt top scientists from abroad, but researchers say its institutions themselves are increasingly attracting talent thanks to their generous funding and growing prestige.

State-backed initiatives like the Thousand Talents Plan have dangled fast-tracked hiring and bountiful grants to lure overseas experts in strategically important fields, as China and the United States vie for technological supremacy.

But academics said the country is becoming a popular destination even among those not targeted by Beijing, especially at the start of their careers.

"You hear about these amazing advanced labs and the government providing money for things like AI and quantum research," said Mejed Jebali, an artificial intelligence PhD candidate from Tunisia at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. "The scale of the research and how fast things get built is really amazing."

China's official enticements have typically targeted eminent researchers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields that could help Beijing achieve its goal of becoming the global leader in technology and innovation.

There is no official database of foreign or returnee scientists moving to China, but at least 20 prominent STEM experts have done so in the past year, according to university and personal announcements reviewed.

They included cancer expert Feng Gensheng, who left a tenured University of California role for Shenzhen Bay Laboratory, and German medical scientist Roland Eils, now part-time at Shanghai's Fudan University.

"It appears that a significantly greater number of overseas scientists -- particularly those of Chinese origin -- have returned to work in China compared with around 10 years ago," said Futao Huang, a professor at Japan's Hiroshima University.

China's reputation for academic prowess has become undeniable. Four of the top five leading research institutions in natural and health sciences in 2025 were Chinese

Academics cited access to rapidly developing industries in China's massive market as a draw.

Lingling Zhang, who joined the China Europe International Business School after two decades in the United States, told AFP she was drawn to more "pragmatic" research.

She said career considerations drove her decision more than the specific prospect of moving back to China.

"I actually have great access to a large number of entrepreneurs and business people," she said.

The pace of industrial development means more opportunities for "academically grounded but application-oriented research", said a materials scientist who moved to China from a European university, who asked to remain anonymous.

"The quality of papers produced by top Chinese institutions today is in no way inferior to that of leading US or European universities, and in some areas is highly competitive or even leading," he said.

China's reputation for academic prowess has become undeniable. Four of the top five leading research institutions in natural and health sciences in 2025 were Chinese, according to *Nature*.

That is a change from the past, when US and European institutions held sway.

"I wouldn't have done it 15 years ago," said Jason Chapman, a world expert on insect migration, on his recent long-term secondment to Nanjing Agricultural University. But in the last five years, "the funding, resources and support" available – far more than overseas – changed the calculus.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Unusual wave behaviour

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

In some crystals and superfluid helium, heat propagates as a temperature wave rather than by diffusion. This requires phonons, the particles of vibrational energy, to behave collectively, which is rare and typically needs very clean materials and low temperatures. What is this phenomenon called?

QUESTION 2

When a particle moves through a medium at a speed greater than the speed of light in that medium, it emits light called _____ _____. This light appears deep blue to human eyes because its relative intensity increases with its frequency. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

X is a collective burst of light from many identical emitters, like atoms, acting together. If they're close enough, their emitted waves add in step, so the total emission becomes brighter and faster than if each atom radiated alone. It's a cooperative effect. Name X.

QUESTION 4

A _____ _____ is a ripple of magnetism moving through a material. In a magnet, many electrons' spins tend to line up. If one region is nudged, the spins there tilt slightly and the disturbance spreads into its neighbourhood like a wave. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

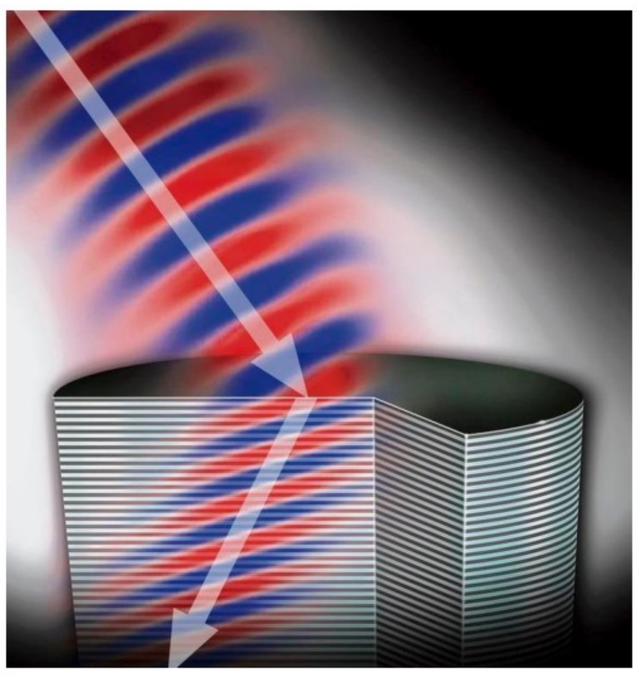
Sometimes very low frequency sound waves can become trapped in 'channels' of temperature or wind layers in the atmosphere, allowing them to move across thousands of kilometres over the earth. This phenomenon is called infrasound _____ _____. Fill in the blanks.

Answers to January 6 quiz:

1. 'Work month' in the Roman calendar replaced by leap days – **Ans: Mercedonius**
2. Astronomer whom Caesar consulted for the Julian calendar – **Ans: Sosigenes**
3. Astronomical cycle the Julian calendar tried to approximate – **Ans: Tropical cycle**
4. Name for 46 BC due to transitioning between the calendars – **Ans: "Year of confusion"**
5. Average difference between Julian, Gregorian calendars – **Ans: 0.0075 days**

Visual: **Janus**

First contact: Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Anmol Agrawal | Appa Rao M.V. | Prem Raj P.



Visual: When light enters regular glass, its Y causes the light to bend but still move forward. Some metamaterials have a negative Y (shown), where the direction of bending also changes. Name Y.
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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of public health facilities certified under NQAS

50,373 More than 50,000 public health facilities across the country have been certified under the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS), a quality framework established by the Union Health Ministry. PTI

Vehicles which were involved in illegal mining seized

631 Police seized 631 vehicles involved in illegal mining, and imposed fines amounting to nearly ₹1 crore last year, officials said on Wednesday. Police officials said that out of the 631 vehicles seized, 572 vehicles were released after completion of statutory formalities in 2025. PTI

Applications received with suggestions for the 2025 Seeds Bill

9,000 The government is targeting to introduce the Seeds Bill 2025 in Parliament during the first phase of the Budget session in February. The ministry plans to table the Pesticides Management Bill 2020 after Parliament recess. PTI

Villagers evacuated in the Philippines due to volcanic eruptions

3,000 A series of mild eruptions at the most active volcano in the Philippines has prompted the evacuation of nearly 3,000 villagers. Authorities raised the 5-step alert around Mayon Volcano in the province of Albay to level 3. PTI

Electors removed from draft list of 12 States, UTs in SIR Phase 2

6.5 In crore. The names of 6.5 crore electors were removed from the draft electoral rolls of nine States and three Union Territories published in the past days as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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India's progress on its climate targets

While the country has successfully reduced emissions intensity, and increased non-fossil power capacity, challenges remain in translating these achievements into absolute emissions reductions. The next few years will be critical in addressing these gaps and ensuring a sustainable future

ECONOMIC NOTES

Deepanshu Mohan
Nagappan Arun
Saksham Raj

There has been a lot of focus on the recent Aravalli judgment and its implications for mining operations across the green belt as well as the government's commitments regarding environmental standards and regulatory protection for ecologically sensitive areas.

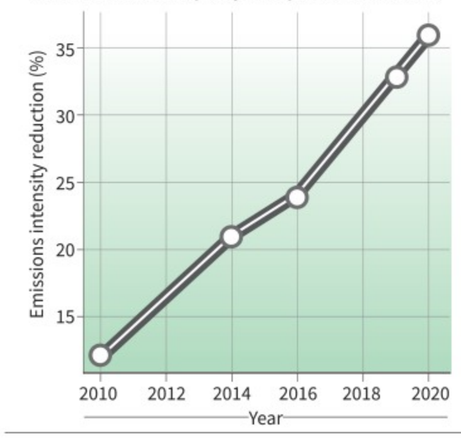
In the Paris summit, India had committed to four quantified climate targets, grounded in the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" – a position that reflects how, historically, India's per capita emissions were fractions compared to emissions of other major countries like the U.S. (however, currently India is the world's third largest absolute emitter). The centrepiece of Prime Minister Modi's statement at the Paris summit was the pledge to reduce emissions intensity by 33-35% by 2030 (based on the 2005 baseline), coupled with commitments to enhance non-fossil power capacity to 40%, 175 GW of renewable energy, and 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon sequestration through forests.

Now, more than 10 years later, one needs to evaluate whether these promises have actually been delivered.

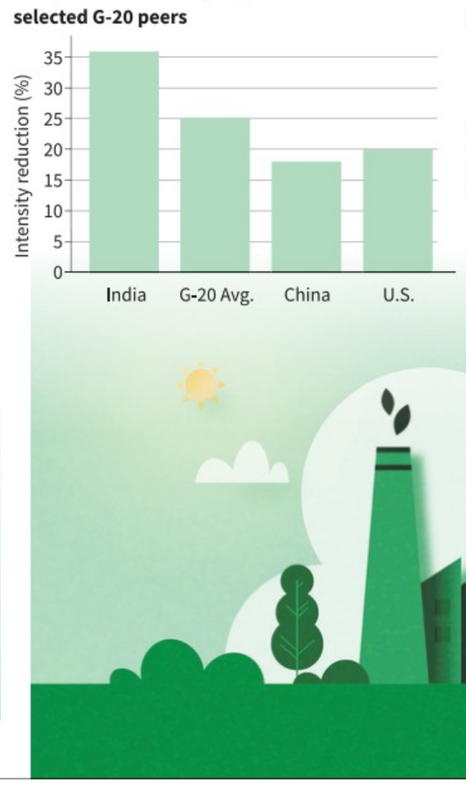
Climate promises

While India has achieved meaningful progress on specific metrics, they also obscure fundamental problems. The intensity gains achieved coexist with rising absolute emissions, and renewable capacity expansion has not translated into a proportional share of generation due to the entrenched baseload of coal

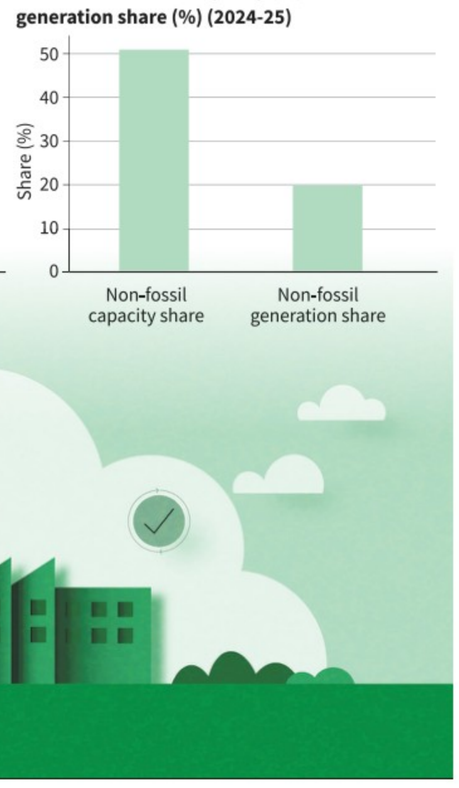
Emissions-intensity trajectory (2005 baseline)



Comparative intensity trajectories: India versus selected G-20 peers



Installed non-fossil capacity (%) versus actual generation share (%) (2024-25)



Incomplete decoupling

India's reduction in GDP emissions-intensity (greenhouse gases per unit of economic output) may appear to be a policy success. Using 2005 as baseline, emissions intensity decreased by approximately 36% by 2020, enabling India to meet its original 33-35% target well ahead of the 2030 deadline.

Three structural drivers explain this trajectory. First, the rapid expansion of non-fossil power capacity (solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear) lowered carbon intensity associated with harnessing electricity. By 2023, non-fossil capacity exceeded by approximately 43%, and it reached roughly 50% by mid-2025. Second, India's economic composition shifted toward lower-carbon services and digital sectors, resulting in a reduction in emissions per unit of GDP. Third, national efficiency programmes like Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) and UJALA curbed demand growth in industry and households; national assessments record measurable electricity savings and avoided emissions in FY2020-21.

However, intensity gains still coexist with persistently high absolute emissions. India's territorial greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were approximately 2,959 $MtCO_2e$ in 2020, and absolute emissions have remained high thereafter.

This phenomenon exists because of partial decoupling: GDP growth has outpaced emissions growth, so intensity has declined without an economy-wide absolute fall. This matters because national intensity averages mask sectoral divergence, as evidenced by the continued rise in emissions from the cement, steel, and transport sectors, even as the power sector's CO2 growth moderated in 2024-25.

Analyses by Climate Transparency and the International Energy Agency show that India's rate of intensity decline exceeds that of many G-20 peers, but coal's large share keeps absolute per-kWh emissions high. For India's 2070 net-zero pledge to be credible, remaining intensity gains must be translated into absolute emissions reductions through a transparent coal phase-down timetable and industrial decarbonisation roadmaps.

Generation gap

India's renewable capacity scale-up is dramatic, but it does not yet replace fossil baseload. Non-fossil capacity rose from ~29.5% in 2015 to ≈51.4% by June 2025. Solar led the build-out (≈2.8 GW in 2014 to ~110.9 GW by mid-2025), supported by tariff competition and domestic photovoltaic manufacturing expansion. Wind power increased more modestly (≈21 GW to ~51.3 GW over the same period) but has been constrained by land, grid-connection delays and state-level regulatory bottlenecks. Crucially, electricity generation lacks capacity – renewables supplied ~22% of electricity in 2024-25 despite greater than 50% non-fossil capacity because of lower capacity factors and storage shortfalls; thermal (primarily coal) capacity remained ~240 GW in mid-2025 and still provides baseload.

The 175 GW renewables target for 2022 was missed, and although a 500 GW 2030 ambition is technically possible, converting installed capacity into sustained generation and emissions reduction will require rapid scaling of storage, transmission upgrades and stronger policy delivery.

The renewable energy targets that India has set for itself, initially 40% non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and now 50% by 2030, are headline successes that mask a vital subtext: capacity and actual production differ sharply due to limitations in renewable integration and intermittency patterns. Non-fossil fuel capacity accounted for 51% of India's cumulative installed capacity of 495 GW as of June 2025, marking the achievement of the first commitment. But this is overshadowed by an essential reality that more than 70% of electricity production in India comes from coal, in spite of its comprising 51% non-fossil fuel capacity. The reason for this is that renewables operate at much shorter capacity compared to coal, as they produce intermittently on a solar and wind basis. In contrast, coal generates constant "baseload" electricity.

Storage is the major sticking point. The Central Electricity Authority has forecast a demand of 336 GWh of energy storage for the 2029-30 period. However, as of September 2025, only 500 MWh of battery energy storage capacity is operational.

Government driven programs such as the National Solar Mission, Solar Parks Scheme, UDAY, PM-KUSUM, and rooftop solar have successfully added 25 GW of renewable energy every year. However, the area of execution remains a challenge, as there is a delay in grid connectivity and limited land acquisition in the power sector. Although the pace of renewable energy in the Indian power sector has reached a groundbreaking level, the country's backbone remains the 253 GW of coal-based capacity.

Forests only on paper

The figure of 2.5-3.0 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent carbon sequestration by 2030, as pledged by India appears achievable in terms of numbers. The India State of Forest Report 2023 reveals that India has already sequestered 30.43 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalents of total carbon stock, representing 2.29 billion tonnes of additional sequestration over the 2005 level, with only 0.2 billion tonnes remaining to achieve the target by 2030.

However, the official figures do not capture the definition's elasticity. The Forest Survey of India's definition of "forest cover" includes any land of more than one hectare with the overstory 10% canopied, and includes eucalyptus monocultures and plantations of mango, tea, and roadside trees in addition to natural forests. Satellite imagery indicating that the country has 7,15,343 sq km of forest cover in 2023, with an increase of only 156 sq km from the previous census in 2021, confuses ecological performance with administrative designation.

Policy mechanisms indicate a friction in implementation. Under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (2016), approximately ₹95,000 crore has been accumulated. However, there is unequal implementation, as States such as Delhi have been able to utilise only 23% of the allocated amount from 2019-20 to 2023-24. The Green India Mission Revised launched in June 2025 after a decade of 'moderate progress,' has proposed regenerating five million hectares through regional projects in the Aravallis, Western Ghats, and Himalayas. 'Plantations' are, however, equated to 'natural regeneration'.

Moreover, climate change is an added stress. While satellite evidence reveals leaf index values that indicate "greening," net primary productivity, and actual carbon assimilation rate are challenged by warming and water stress, especially in the Western Ghats and northeastern parts of India. The country is likely to meet its "forest sink" target by 2030 through mechanisms that are plantation dominated and governance limited, prioritising carbon accounting over ecological restoration.

The road ahead

While India has achieved meaningful progress on specific metrics, they also obscure fundamental problems with climate action in India. The intensity gains achieved coexist with rising absolute emissions, and renewable capacity expansion has not translated into a proportional share of generation due to the entrenched baseload of coal that mask the actual ecological impact.

The transition path that lies ahead demands sustained effort in areas requiring systemic coordination and coordinated governance like the rapid scaling of battery storage to bridge the capacity generation gap, the development of a coal transition roadmap, reformed forest governance to ensure quality biodiversity outcomes alongside carbon target numbers, and increase in data transparency to track progress across sectoral and regional variations as mere technology and capital influx will now no longer suffice.

The upcoming five years present a critical window for India to accelerate renewable energy growth, resolve storage bottlenecks, and strengthen government coordination on grid connectivity and land acquisition.

In summation, India's performative standards may have broadly delivered on its quantified commitments. Still, the outcomes that matter most lie beyond headline metrics, in converting the now installed capacity into continued sustained generation and intensity gains into absolute emission 'moderation'.

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THE GIST

- Using 2005 as baseline, emissions intensity decreased by approximately 36% by 2020, enabling India to meet its original 33-35% target well ahead of the 2030 deadline. However, intensity gains still coexist with persistently high absolute emissions.
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- The renewable energy targets that India has set for itself, initially 40% non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and now 50% by 2030, are headline successes that mask a vital subtext: capacity and actual production differ sharply due to limitations in renewable integration and intermittency patterns.

Satellite images debunk residents' claim, govt. tells HC

Authorities have satellite images to show when houses were constructed rejecting claims by residents that they were residing there for the past 28 years, Advocate General tells the court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Wednesday informed the High Court that it has satellite images to prove when each of the houses at the illegally developed Fakir and Wasim colonies were built on government land in Kogilu Layout in north Bengaluru, while rejecting the claim of some residents that they had been residing in the now-demolished houses for the past 28 years.

State Advocate-General K. Shashi Kiran Shetty made these submissions before a Division Bench during the hearing of a PIL petition filed by Zaiba Tabassum, 28, Rehana, 25, and Areefa Begaum, 49, three women, who were among those evicted from the two colonies on December 20.

When the Bench pointed out the petitioners claim that they were residing in the colonies for the past 28 years, the A-G said that such a claim is "factually incorrect". while stating that the government has satellite images to show when the houses, which were recently demolished, were constructed.

Evicted families staged a protest on january 3 during an inspection by the BJP's fact-finding committee at Kogilu, where thew GBA demolished illegal colonies, in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Rejecting the claim of the petitioners that they were evicted without following the due process of law and the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court on eviction, the A-G said the top court's judgment was not applicable to the present case. He said the land on which the petitioners had built houses was not a slum. The area was initially used for quarrying and later as landfill for garbage from Bengaluru.

On the Bench's query about providing temporary shelter to the displaced families, the A-G told the court that the displaced families were being accommodated in temporary rehabilitation centres till further orders to be passed of the court in this petition. As petitioners' counsel told that court that around 300 displaced families comprising around 3,000 persons need food and blankets, the A-G said that food is being supplied to them through Indira Canteen, and other basis amenities will also be provided.

They were provided with food, he said. The Bench adjourned further hearing till January 22 while directing the Government of Karnataka to file its response to the petition within one week, and asking the petitioners to file their reply to the government's response.

The petitioners have urged the court to direct the government to reconstruct their houses or allot land as compensation. have sought directions from the court to declare that the action of demolition of their houses was in violation of the law, and direct the government to either reconstruct houses for them in the same land or provide equivalent alternative housing to restore the lives of the affected persons. They have also sought a survey to identify all persons affected due to demolition of houses in the two colonies and their eligibility for rehabilitation, besides adequate compensation by declaring that the action of demolition was illegal.

On December 20, 2025, the Greater Bengaluru Authority and the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) had demolished several houses built on the site of the old quarry. The authorities had claimed that certain anti-social elements had encroached on this land and allowed families of the petitioners and others to put up sheds and reside there by providing them some documents.

FIR against four for selling govt. land for unauthorised construction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Fifteen days after the demolition of over 150 houses and sheds deemed illegal in Kogilu Layout, Fakir Colony and Waseem Layout, the Yelahanka police registered an FIR against four persons on January 4 for allegedly selling government land and allowing unauthorised construction in north Bengaluru.

According to the authorities, the demolition was carried out to recover land belonging to the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), which was meant for a solid waste processing unit.

Based on a complaint filed by Santoshkumar Kaddi, engineer with the BSWML, the police booked Vijay, Waseemullah Baig, Muni Anjinappa and Robin charging them under various sections of Karnataka Land Revenue Act .

Delayed infra projects
According to the complaint, government land measuring 14 acres and 36 guntas, which had been transferred for municipal solid waste management purposes, was encroached upon, leading to delay in the execution of approved infrastructure projects.

The land was earmarked for the construction of bio-methanisation units, dry waste processing units, plastic waste processing units and sanitary waste processing units.

In 2023, tenders were floated for these projects, followed by release of work orders.

Illegally occupied
However, during field inspections, it was found that around four acres of the allotted land had been illegally occupied by unauthorised hutments and makeshift structures. The encroachments obstructed implementation of the waste processing projects, according to the complaint.

Following official directions, a joint eviction drive was carried out on December 20, 2025, by BSWML officials, the Revenue Department, and the police, with support from the Bengaluru North taluk administration. During the operation, around 160 illegal makeshift houses were removed from the site.

Inquiries revealed that Vijay, Waseem, Muni Anjinappa and Robin had allegedly taken money from some people and assisted in facilitating and maintaining the unauthorised houses.

5 booked for protest
Another FIR has been filed against five persons for staging a protest near the demolition site in support of the people who lost their homes. This, according to the complaint filed by Head Constable Shankar Naik, created a law and order issue, and violations of a order of the High Court of Karnataka.

'100 m of pipeline replaced in 24 hours'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) said it has replaced 100 m of corroded pipeline in Lingarajapuram that was leading to water contamination in record 24 hours on Wednesday.

Following a lane reporting a contaminated water supply last week, BWSSB deployed robotic technology to pinpoint the source of contamination. Using it, the Board identified that the four-decade-old pipeline had corroded and that was leading to contamination. Following this, the Board took up work to replace the pipeline.

Of the 19 houses that were affected, new connections were provided to 14 in the lane.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JAN. 08		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:08
RISE	22:52	SET 10:32
FRIDAY, JAN. 09		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:09
RISE	23:39	SET 11:09
SATURDAY, JAN. 10		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:10
RISE	00:00	SET 11:45

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	27	16
Bengaluru	25	17

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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DPR work starts for proposed Bengaluru–Tumakuru metro line

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Amid a debate over its necessity, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) has initiated the process of preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for extending metro rail services from Bengaluru to Tumakuru. The proposed corridor will begin at Madavara, the northern terminal of the existing Green Line, and is aimed at providing direct metro connectivity between the capital city and the neighbouring district.

As part of this process, BMRCL has awarded a contract for preparing the DPR to Aarvee Engineering Consultants.

The consultancy will prepare the report for the proposed 59.60-km-long metro line at a cost not exceeding ₹1.2 crore. Tenders were floated in November 2025.

The Bengaluru-Tumakuru metro project will have 25 stations. As per earlier State Budget projections, the total cost of the project has been estimated at ₹20,649 crore, making it one of the most ambitious inter-district metro proposals in Karnataka.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Yashwanth Chavan, chief public relations officer of BMRCL, said that the consultancy appointed for the project has commenced work on the Detailed Project Report, with a particular focus on field-level studies along the proposed corridor. "The ongoing exercise includes ground surveys, data collection on traffic and travel patterns, preliminary alignment checks, various assessments, and initial geotechnical investigations, all of which will form the basis for detailed planning and design of the proposed metro extension," he added.

Proposed Tumakuru metro extension

- Route Length: 59.60 km
- Total Stations: 26
- From Madavara to Nagannanapalya (Tumakuru)

Proposed key stations
- Makali
- Dasanapura
- Nelamangala
- Nelamangala Tollgate
- T. Begur
- Thippagondanahalli
- Sompura Industrial Area
- Dobbspet
- Hirehalli Industrial Area
- Kyatsandra
- Tumakuru Bus Stand
- TUDA Layout
- Nagannanapalya

Feasibility report
The decision to move ahead with the DPR follows an announcement by Home Minister G. Parameshwara, who had stated that the State government had accepted a feasibility report BMRCL had submitted in May last year. The proposed corridor is part of Namma Metro's Phase 4 expansion.

However, the proposal has sparked considerable discussion over whether a high-cost metro project is necessary, given that Tumakuru, located about 70 km from Bengaluru's city centre, is already the focus of multiple connectivity initiatives. Railway Infrastructure Development Company Karnataka (K-RIDE) has proposed a suburban rail connection to Tumakuru, while South Western Railway is planning infrastructure upgrades to strengthen rail links between the two districts.

A crucial component of the DPR will be the preparation of an Alternative Analysis Report (AAR). This report is intended to evaluate all viable transport options, assess potential impacts, and capture stakeholder feedback. The objective is to identify the most suitable and locally preferred alternative, thereby establishing the necessity and relevance of the metro extension.

What DPR will cover
According to BMRCL officials, the DPR must include a detailed assessment of the existing urban profile, land use patterns, and transport characteristics. "It will review earlier studies such as the Master Plan, Comprehensive Mobility Plan, and previous metro proposals. The consultant is required to analyse current and future travel demand using surveys and modelling techniques, and estimate ridership. Key tasks include selecting appropriate transit technology and finalising corridor alignment based on road geometry, geotechnical conditions, land acquisition needs, and utility mapping," an official said.

KIA gets in-house integrated solid waste management centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru on Wednesday inaugurated its in-house Integrated Solid Waste Management Centre (ISWMC). As one of India's busiest airports, KIA generates approximately 24 to 26 tonnes per day of solid waste across terminals, airside operations, commercial outlets, and allied facilities currently.

The Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) said that the ISWMC enables scientific, end-to-end waste processing at source, enhancing operational control, reducing reliance on external handlers, minimising transportation-related environmental risks, and contributing to lower emissions, improved compliance, and greater operational resilience.

Reduce landfill disposal
"With the facility in place, the airport expects to reduce landfill disposal to 2% to 3% of total waste, enabling 97% to 98% of waste to be recycled or recovered through in-house processes and authorised partners," BIAL said.

Designed with a total processing capacity of 77 tonnes per day (TPD), the ISWMC is designed to manage both organic and inorganic waste streams.

Organic waste, up to 50 TPD, is treated through bio-methanation technology, converting biodegradable waste into compressed biogas (CBG) for use in airport kitchens, along with liquid organic manure and compost to support landscaping requirements.

The remaining 27 TPD of inorganic waste is processed through advanced segregation systems, with recyclables directed to authorised recycling partners and recoverable material utilised for co-processing in the cement industry.

Minister raps BIAL over KIA's pick-up, parking regulations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Wednesday came down heavily on the Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) following widespread criticism from cab drivers and passengers over the recently introduced parking and pick-up regulations at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

Mr. Reddy visited Terminal 1 of the airport to personally assess the impact of the new regulations after several complaints suggested that the revised system had made access more difficult for passengers, particularly those dependent on taxis. During the inspection, the Minister noticed that a portion of the bus bays earmarked for Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) Vayu Vajra airport buses had been taken over, triggering sharp criticism from him.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Reddy said the changes had only added to commuter inconvenience. "In the backdrop of the recent parking and pick-up regulations and complaints by passengers, I personally visited the airport and found that these regulations have created more problems for passengers as well as cab drivers," he said.

He added that he reviewed the distance passengers were required to walk to reach the designated taxi pick-up points and the overall transport arrangements, and concluded that the new system would disproportionately affect women, children, and the elderly.

To better understand the ground reality, the Minister travelled in a bus within the airport premises to observe the challenges faced by passengers. He expressed strong displeasure over the reduction of BMTC bus bays along with taxi bays, alleging that public transport facilities were being pushed farther away to favour private operators.

Mr. Reddy directed airport officials to immediately restore the BMTC bus bays to ensure smooth operations. "Earlier, 14 bays were allotted to BMTC buses. Now, only seven have been provided. This is not right," he said, instructing BIAL to reinstate all the previously dedicated bays without delay. He also instructed that taxi drivers be allowed to access the pick-up points as before and asked officials to roll back the new pick-up regulations.

The Minister further said he would raise the issue with Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary of Karnataka, who also serves as the Chairperson of BIAL, to ensure that the matter is resolved promptly.

Meanwhile, a BIAL spokesperson maintained that the airport operator had not taken away any BMTC bus bays. The official said, "The main bus bay has been shifted to Terminal 2 at the multi-level parking facility, where a larger bus bay has been provided, and that the space at Terminal 1 currently functions only as a BMTC and KSRTC bus pick-up point".

However, BIAL did not officially comment on the Minister's inspection or the directions issued during his visit.

ISRO set to launch earth observation satellite mission on January 12

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled to launch the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission on January 12.

Strategic use
The launch of the earth observation satellite (EOS-N1) satellite along with other payloads will take place from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

EOS-N1 is an earth imaging satellite said to be built for strategic purposes. ISRO has not shared further details about the satellite. "The launch of PSLV-C62 Mission is scheduled on 12 January 2026 at 10:17 hrs IST," ISRO posted on X.

The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission is the first launch for ISRO in 2026 and comes within a few days of successfully launching the U.S.'s BlueBird Block-2 satellite communication satellite in low earth orbit on December 24 onboard the LVM-3 launch vehicle.

Post glitch
The launch of the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission will be the 105th launch from Sriharikota.

It is also an important launch for the space agency as the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV), which is ISRO's workhorse, had suffered a glitch during its previous attempt to launch a satellite.

On May 18, 2025, while ISRO attempted to launch the EOS-09 satellite aboard the PSLV-C61 it could not accomplish the mission due to an observation in the third stage of the rocket.

PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission will also launch payloads developed by start-up and academia from India and abroad.

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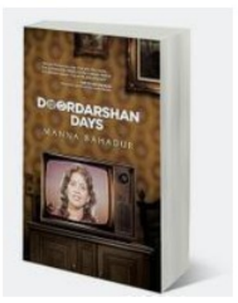
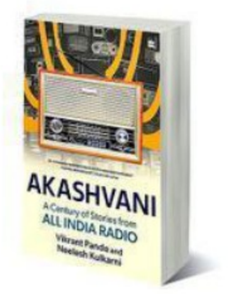
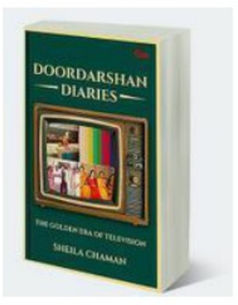






Diversity on the small screen: when Doordarshan stitched together a nation

The evolution of mass communication in India is also the legacy of Doordarshan. Its varied content tried to culturally unify a country. Several books chart the journey of public broadcasting in India and what it did in the face of competition from private networks

Soma Basu

Reading Sheila Chaman's *Doordarshan Diaries: The Golden Era of Television* (Om Books International) is like rediscovering the magic of the public broadcaster. From the silent generation to the boomers who witnessed the birth and growth of Indian television, from Gen X and the millennials often described as the Doordarshan generation to Gen Z and Alpha who perhaps do not connect with its content, this book is a reminder of the uncomplicated times long before algorithms dictated our remote-controlled lives.

It is almost impossible today to gather around the television like we did for broadcasts on a single channel at a fixed time. Those intense emotions and feelings TV viewing evoked have diminished. From shared cultural ritual in front of the television, for limited news to entertainment, sports or education, everything is now available on an industrial scale with 918 private satellite channels.

Conversation starter

That is why Sheila Chaman's book compels you to pause and understand how the daily four hours of broadcast, unified the country, inspiring conversations and shaping opinions.

The veteran broadcaster, who grew with the medium over a span of three decades, does not state the obvious decline, but through her vivid recollection writes about several untold behind-the-scenes anecdotes that bring alive the pioneering spirit of the people behind popular and iconic programmes who transformed Doordarshan into a national memory.

It is important to realise that Doordarshan was not just a channel disseminating tailored information but also upheld constitutional values promoting national integration and social development.

Chaman's is an insider's perspective on the early days of the organisation, its transition and transformation. She captures the nostalgia of unfettered journalism. Reading her is like reconnecting with the older and quieter version of a tolerant India. She highlights the challenges of producing content in those days and reflects on discipline and creativity that helped programmes resonate with diverse audiences.

Challenging a monopoly

It may be prudent not to indict current television programmes, but the advent of cable TV did challenge Doordarshan's monopoly. The saturated media landscape today says something forlorn about DD, a foundational pillar of national media history that began as a modest experiment in public service telecasting.

Once Upon a Prime Time by Ananth Mahadevan (Embassy Books) is partially autobiographical giving an interesting insight into the first-hand experience of those who performed for television audiences and were not part of any consumer-driven shows. It is a throwback for those connected with the medium and its services, past and present.

Public Service Broadcasting in India: A Study of Doordarshan by Rommani Sen Shitak (Bluerose Publishers) reflects on the journey of television in India from its humble beginnings in 1959 to a flourishing sector; how Doordarshan started off with socio-educational experiments, and became a multi-channel network catering to diverse linguistic and ethnic groups. Shitak takes stock of changes that took place in terms of policies, financing and programming over the years. There is a detailed analysis of the strategies implemented by Doordarshan when it was faced with competition from private networks.

The Ramayana effect

IAS officer Bhaskar Ghose who was appointed director-general of Doordarshan by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, has authored *Doordarshan Days* (Penguin India), talking about his seminal role in the organisation's development. This included the airing of popular serials such as Ramayana and Mahabharata; the first live broadcast of the cricket World Cup; the advent of satellite transmission; the first live election coverage; building Doordarshan's international presence; and the onslaught of private networks.

Ghose's attempts at reforming Doordarshan put him in conflict with the murky underside of public broadcasting and he candidly recounts with his characteristic humour the struggle to bring about change.

In another memoir by the same name (*Doordarshan Days*), Manna Bahadur, remembers the days when TV news did not sound like a screamathon and its programmes were a treat for the entire family. He talks about the iconic presenters who became fashion trendsetters for the nation. The memoir treads on DD's anxious birth, teething pains, its golden period to its expansion.

Many books on Doordarshan cover television history and its connection to All India Radio (AIR), as both were part of the same public broadcasting system.

For instance, how many know that Rabindranath Tagore dedicated a poem to AIR called Akashvani, which was adopted as the broadcaster's Hindi name; that an AIR producer was the first civilian allowed inside the Golden Temple after Operation Blue Star; or that noted Pakistani ghazal singer Ghulam Ali made his disciples listen to AIR's Urdu service to correct Urdu pronunciation.

These and many other tales make up *Akashvani: A Century of Stories from All India Radio* by Neelesh Kulkarni and Vikrant Pande (HarperCollins Publishers India). With anecdotes from producers, broadcasters, radio jockeys and listeners, the book reveals the pivotal role of the mass media in an average Indian's life.

The downfall

Vinod Kapoor in *Radio Cavalcade: Indian Broadcasting ...A Look Back* (Notion Press) writes about the day when India gained independence, the scene at AIR during Gandhi's assassination, the way soap operas gained prominence, and how Hindi cinema provided a stream of artists it nurtured. The author critically discusses the clipped freedom of professionals under the Prasar Bharati Act and how it led to the downfall of public broadcasting.

Viewers of a certain vintage will understand better that Doordarshan mirrors India's growth from a young republic to a global player, and fundamentally shaped every Indian's consumption of news, education and entertainment.

It should continue to fulfil its public service mandate, reflecting diversity and inclusivity.

But does it? Its existence today is no less important, but perhaps different.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the difference in meaning between "salary" and "wages"? (R. V. Murthy, Hospet, Karnataka)

Both words refer to the amount of money that an individual receives for services that he/she has rendered. "Wages" are usually paid to those people who are involved in manual labour – people whose tasks involve more physical than mental effort. Servants, gardeners, masons, electricians, plumbers, factory workers receive wages. These workers, sometimes referred to as "blue collar workers", are usually paid on an hourly/daily/weekly basis. Most government offices in India hire people on "daily wages", and these workers receive their wages at the end of the day, end of the week, or at the end of the month. Here are a few examples:

Sujatha wanted to know what my weekly wages were. For working ten hours a day, Swami was getting Rs. 30 as wages.

Compared to other countries, wages are very low in India. "Salaries", on the other hand, are paid to professionals and people who do not perform manual labour. Such people are sometimes called "white collar workers." If you have a white collar job – i.e. a job that does not involve manual labour – you receive a salary. Teachers, clerks, bank managers, income tax officials are some of the people who get paid a salary. It is usually given to an individual on a regular basis – it could be weekly, monthly, etc. – and unlike wages, the salary that an individual receives is usually fixed. While a wage earner may receive extra money if he works a couple of hours more, a person earning a salary does not usually get anything extra for putting in more hours of work. Here are a few examples:

The company was willing to pay him a salary of Rs. 50,000 a month. His salary has been the same for the past seven years. The Vice-Chancellor informed me that I wouldn't be getting my salary this month.

What is the difference between "sink" and "drown"? (P. Velayudham, Chowdepalle, Chittoor District)

Only living things can drown. When you drown, you die because your lungs become filled with water. The water does not have to be deep for one to drown – one can even drown in a bath tub! People can drown, animals can drown, insects can drown; but inanimate things like stones, books and ships cannot drown. They merely sink. When an object sinks, it goes to the bottom; it does not stay afloat. Both living and non-living things can sink. Here are a few examples:

The stone sank to the bottom of the river. The diver sank to the bottom of the lake. When the Titanic sank, hundreds of people drowned.

When you sink, you do not necessarily die. You can deliberately decide to go to the bottom of a lake/river/pool and come up for air again. When you drown, you do not always end up at the bottom of a river/pool. Bodies of people who have drowned are often seen floating.

Published in The Hindu on March 30, 1999.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Simone de Beauvoir, feminist icon and existential philosopher, was born on January 9, 1908. Here is a quiz on the renowned personality

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1

Name her groundbreaking critique of patriarchy, often regarded a foundational feminist literature, which was listed on the Vatican's 'index of forbidden books'.

QUESTION 2

Name her work depicting the attempts of post-Second World War intellectuals to leave their 'educated elite' status and engage in political activism, which won her the French literary prize Prix Goncourt.

QUESTION 3

Name the only play written by Simone de Beauvoir.

QUESTION 4

Name her treatise published in 1947 which deals with themes including freedom, oppression, and responsibility, expounding on the idea that 'human freedom requires the freedom of others for it to be actualised'.

QUESTION 5

Name her novel which opens with the quote: "Each conscience seeks the death of the other" from another philosopher, Hegel.

Visual question:
Name this American philosopher who based her theory of gender performance on Beauvoir's idea that one is not born, but rather becomes, a woman. GETTY IMAGES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The U.S. spy agency and the U.K.'s MI6 were involved in the assassination of this African's country first elected Prime Minister. **Ans: Patrice Lumumba from the Democratic Republic of the Congo**
2. This South American dictator seized power and ruled for 17 years after the CIA involvement in the destabilisation of the government of Salvador Allende. **Ans: Augusto Pinochet**
3. This was the most significant intelligence analysis failure in the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. **Ans: Overstating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction capabilities under Saddam Hussein**
4. The CIA devised several failed and unrealistic assassination plots against this Latin American revolutionary leader. **Ans: Fidel Castro**
5. Although never established as historical fact, X was alleged to have been a CIA agent. X was a former Prime Minister of India. **Ans: Morarji Desai**
Visual: Name this award-winning film that drew criticism as CIA hagiography. **Ans: *Zero Dark Thirty***
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Sukdev Shet| Arun Kumar Singh| Arjun Debnath| Vidyasagar Reddy Kethiri

Word of the day

Marginalia:
notes written in the margin

Synonyms: note

Usage: *Some of their chats were printed as marginalia in the book.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/marginaliapro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /mɑɹdʒɪˈneɪli.ə/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

READER CONNECT INITIATIVE

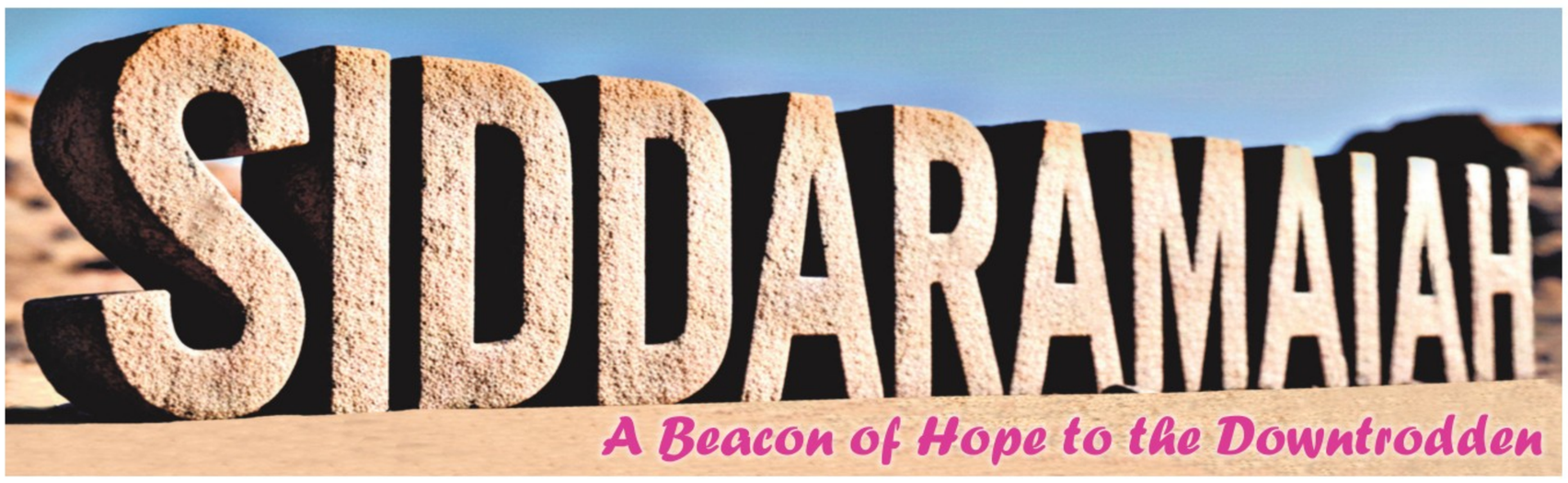
CM Siddaramaiah enters record books

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah surpassed the record of D. Devaraj Urs for the longest tenure as Chief Minister of Karnataka. Today, it stands at 7 years and 239 days. He noted he was able to serve at the helm of the State for a long duration solely because of the "blessings of the people". Siddaramaiah was modest, He said that records are not permanent. "Records are meant to be broken. Another leader may emerge in the future who could surpass the tenure I am completing now. There could also be leaders who present the Budget more times than I have," he said.

Even after becoming the Chief Minister, the essence of the village boy in Siddaramaiah has never changed. He is extremely fond of the folk dance style - 'Veera Makkala Kunitha'. He never misses the annual village festival and joyfully participates in the dance with the villagers. Bonda Sambar (a type of stew), naati (country) chicken curry, and ragi balls are his favourite foods.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar

"I wish Mr. Siddaramaiah well. I wish him all the best and good luck."



A leader with a vast support base

Siddaramaiah's family was mainly dependent on agriculture. In the days when getting through matriculation itself was a tough proposition, he was the first graduate in the family. He was forced to discontinue his education for some time due to difficult circumstances at home because of which he was asked to tend the cattle. But the teachers of his village school recognised his interest in studies and helped him directly get admitted to fifth standard.

Not all leaders are mass leaders. Mass leader is a title given by the people. Transition from a leader to mass leader is a journey in itself and one has to face challenges, problems and occasionally, failures. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is a quintessential mass leader. Born on August 3, 1948 at Siddaramana Hundi, a remote village in Varuna Hobli of Mysore District, Siddaramaiah has seen many triumphs and failures. Failures have not deterred him. On the contrary, over the years, he has become the undisputed mass leader of Karnataka.

When Siddaramaiah speaks on stage, the authentic dialect of the Mysuru region effortlessly flows from him. With that unique style, he possesses the power to captivate the audience like a magnet. His words might be sharp, but his heart is gentle. This is why Siddaramaiah has a vast support base.

Humble background

Siddaramaiah's family was mainly dependent on agriculture. In the days when getting through matriculation itself was a tough proposition, he was the first graduate in the family. He was forced to discontinue his education for some time due to difficult circumstances at home and because of which he was asked to tend the cattle. But the teachers of his village school recognised his interest in studies and helped him directly get admitted to fifth standard.

Even after beginning to practice law, he did not completely dedicate himself to the courts. His mind was always concerned about the hardships of the exploited classes and that was when he came under the influence of socialist thinker Dr Ram Manohar Lohia. As a student, he lived a tough life in a rented room in Mysore.

The hardships of those times gave him a deep perspective and have now helped in formulating several schemes for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden. After starting legal practice with Prof. P.M. Chikkaboraiah, he gradually entered public life and started taking the lead to fight against social evils. His quest for social justice through reforms made him quit legal practice and jump into politics. He started taking one small step at a time in politics and started gathering momentum.

Political career

Siddaramaiah political life began in 1978 when he became a member of the Taluk His political life began in 1978 when he became a member of the Taluk Development Board.

He was also simultaneously attracted to the farmers' movement and thus began his association with Prof M.D. Nanjundaswamy, who pioneered farmers' struggle in Karnataka. Contesting on Bharatia Lok Dal Party, he entered the 7th Karnataka Legislative Assembly as its Member. from Chamundeshwari Assembly Constituency in Mysore District. Later, he joined the ruling Janata Party. He was the first President of Kannada Watchdog Committee (Kannada Kavalu Samiti) set up to supervise the implementation of Kannada as Official Language. He strived for the enrichment of Kannada language and culture of the State. Later, he became Minister of State for Sericulture and was instrumental in the all-round development of Sericulture Department and Silk Industry in the State. During the mid-term poll in 1985, Siddaramaiah got re-elected from the same Constituency for the 8th Karnataka Legislative Assembly. He became Minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, which he served with distinction. His love and affection for the rural people has been manifested in the programmes and policies he implemented during his tenure as the Minister for Transport and served the Ministry with unmistakable zeal.

He was elected again in the 1994 general elections to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from the same constituency. He became Deputy Chief Minister having the portfolio of Finance and Excise. He filled the coffers of the State exchequer: repaid the debts of previous Government and the State never again went for an overdraft during his tenure. It was an amazing feat by any standards. He pooled effectively the resources. The credit rating company, in its report has remarked Karnataka as a State with sound financial position in the country. He was elected as Janata Dal Party President in 1999 to 2004.

Siddaramaiah's political life took a new turn when Congress party took a padayatra (foot march) from Bengaluru to Ballari for Nada Rakshana Nadige (walk to protect the State). A select group of 1,000 Youth Congress leaders, MLAs and MLCs, more than 50 senior Congress leaders and 3,000 party-workers set off from Freedom Park. It culminated with coinciding with the anniversary of the Quit India movement. During the 320-km padayatra, Siddaramaiah marched on unmindful of the scorching heat, heavy downpour, uneven land, and battling physical exhaustion, aching limbs and sore feet.

It had succeeded in transforming the yatra into serious affair, sending home a strong message that Congress believed in 'walking the talk'. It was taken to draw attention of the public towards the BJP-ruled government's 'failures' on various fronts including inability to curb illegal mining in Bellary. At the 75th birthday celebration of Siddaramaiah in Davanagere, put together by several supporters, displayed the popular support that he enjoys in the Congress in Karnataka.

Upholding enormous trust bestowed upon him by the people

The priorities of CM Siddaramaiah are maintenance of law and order, social service, provision of infrastructure, welfare of the weaker sections of the society, conservation of environment, promotion of economic development, upliftment of farmers, equitable distribution of resources and creation of equal opportunities for all. Siddaramaiah strives to uphold the enormous trust bestowed by the seven crore Kannadigas, build their radiant future and give wings to the dreams of millions of Indians.

The government was committed to ensuring welfare of all, including the poor, the weaker sections, the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, the backward communities and minorities and the landless agricultural laborers and the women by providing equal opportunity for all.

CM Siddaramaiah recollects the thoughts of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who had noted, "An economic plan that does not guarantee security is of no use. For the plan to be acceptable, it must be economical and secure. It will do, if it is not economical; but it will certainly not do if it is not secure."

In this era of free market, as important it is to attract huge capital investment and economic growth, it is equally important to address the huge divide created by widespread unequal distribution of resources.

Siddaramaiah's endeavour is to share the fruits of development with the poor, the oppressed and weaker sections. In economic literature, when the belief that fruits of economic development shall pass into the hands of the poor easily (trickle-down theory) is belied, cash transfer to poor and especially to women with no strings attached has proven to be an effective way to empower women and increase their purchasing power.

Government will mobilise the resources that are needed for implementing the schemes without causing any burden to the people. In this regard, government will reform tax collection, prevent tax leakages along with controlling unnecessary government expenditure.

Management of fiscal resources and efficient administration is an art and a science. The government is committed to implement the projects effectively with the hope that these projects will reach the eligible people directly and be a harbinger of hope to the suffering poor.

Pro-people governments should follow the policies that re-distribute the resources among the poor. The schemes announced by the government will do this task. "We have demonstrated the commitment of our government again by implementing schemes proving that we walk the talk," CM Siddaramaiah says.

Tiger sighting alert triggers search near Mysuru airport

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Forest Department has launched a search operation following reports of suspected tiger movement in and around the Mysuru airport premises.

The department was alerted about a tiger being sighted near the Mysuru-Nanjangud National Highway, close to the airport, at around 6.30 a.m. on Monday. Based on the information, forest officials, along with airport security personnel, rushed to the spot and examined CCTV footage, which confirmed the presence of the big cat.

Subsequent searches revealed pugmarks on the airport premises. Tiger hair and blood stains were noticed on the airport's boundary fencing, which were examined and confirmed by veterinarians.

More than 100 personnel were deployed in five to six teams to comb the airport premises and surrounding areas. Pugmarks were traced up to a distance of about 1.5 km from the airport. Thermal drones were also used to scan the area, but no further sighting of the tiger was reported.

The officials has advised residents of nearby villages to avoid venturing outdoors at night, and cooperate with officials until the operations conclude.

Pickup vehicle rams pole; four killed

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Four persons were killed and four others suffered injuries when a pickup vehicle hit an electric pole near Sasaluhalla in Holalkere taluk on Tuesday evening.

The deceased have been identified as Giriraj, 42, Kiran, 30, Arun, 32, and Hanumantha, 48. The injurd have been identified as Santhosh, 28, Murthappa, 40, Nagaraj, 35, and Pradeep, 30.

According to the police, Giriraj, who was owner of the vehicle, had taken the workers to harvest areca on a farm. They met with the accident while returning to their village.

A case has been registered.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
COMMISSIONERATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
No.05, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.

Roc.No.3733 /A&A/RIGHTS/2025 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 07.01.2026

Bids are invited from potential bidders for supply of Computers & Printers to 17 sub divisional OSC's across the districts of Karur, Sivaganga, Theni, Tiruvarur, Chengalpattu, Ranipet, Kallakurichi and Tirupathur through the e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department website-**www.scd.tn.gov.in** as well as on the tender website-**tntenders.gov.in.**

Bids are to be uploaded through the e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**

Project Director – TN RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

Project Director – RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare of the Differently Abled

DIPR/ 93 /TENDER/2026

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ನೊಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:**KOL-S243-2012-13** ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–03–2013
Website: www.kimskoppal.com email: directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Office : 08539 225522 Office : 08539-225523

No: KIMS/Koppal/Tender/2025-26/462 Date: 05/01/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited forprovidingthe following services for KIMS, Koppal under two cover Bid system as per KTPP Act 1999 rule 2000 KPPP portal of Government of Karnataka.
Tender Notification No and Date: 01 KIMS/Koppal/Tender/Surgicals/ 2025-26 Date: 07/01/2026 **Particulars:** Supply of I V Fluids &Syringe items to Kims, Koppal for a period of 01 years on need basis (Rate contract) i.e. For the period of 2025-26 **Approx Cost (in Lakhs)** : 49.06 **EMD Rs.:** 1) Up to Rs. 20.00Lakh 2.5% 2) Above Rs. 20.00 Lakh 2%
1) Tender documents may download from the **07/01/2026** @05.30PM 2) Tender must be submitted online on before **21/01/2026** @5.30PM 3) Technical Bids will be opened on **23/01/2026** @11.30AM 4) Price Bid will be opened on **27/01/2026** @11.30 AM
Further information may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and this office web-site www.kimskoppal.kar.nic.in

DIPR/Koppal/598/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/-Director, KIMS Koppal.**

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ; CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425

Tender Ref. No.: GEM/2026/B/7079468 Date: 06-01-2026

Tender Notice Invitation

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/Importer/Authorized Agent for supply of Ophthalmic Operating Microscope. The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

S.N.	Activity	Date & Time
1.	Tender Reference No.	GEM/2026/B/7079468
2.	Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document	06-01-2026
3.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	12/01/2026 at 3:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.
4.	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	16/01/2026 up to 18:00 PM.
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	16/01/2026 at 18:30 PM
6.	Date of Completion of Examination of Technical Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
8.	Date of Completion of Examination of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmsc.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates.

Managing Director, UPMSCL
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

TRAUMA AND EMERGENCY CARE CENTRE
BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Office of the Special Officer, Victoria Hospital Campus, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Telephone: 080-26802725, E-mail: sploffrtcc@gmail.com

No: TCC/Tender/P-Notification/01/2025-26 Dated: 07-01-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tender are invited through KPP Portal for **Outsource Services for BMCRI Trauma & Emergency Care Center, Bengaluru.**

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No.	Details
1	TCC/Tender/Cleaning/ 01/2025-26	E-Tender for Providing Housekeeping Services
2	TCC/Tender/Wardboys/ 02/2025-26	E-Tender for Providing Wardboy Services
3	TCC/Tender/Security/ 05/2025-26	E-Tender for Providing Security Services
4	TCC/Tender/Operation & Maintenance/03/2025-26	E-Tender for Providing Operation & Maintenance Services

1) Commencement date for Uploading of E-Tenders: **12-01-2026. 2)** Last Date for E-Tenders Queries: **22-01-2026. 3)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting: **22-01-2026. 4)** Last Date for Uploading the E-Tenders: **11-02-2026. 5)** Date of Opening of E-Tender Technical Bid: **13-02-2026.**

Tender details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the KPPP mode only. Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact **Special Officer, BMCRI Trauma and Emergency Care Center, Victoria Hospital Campus, K.R. Road, Bengaluru.** Phone: **080-26802725,** E-mail: **sploffrtcc@gmail.com,** Website: **https://teccbmcri.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Special Officer, BMCRI, Trauma & Emergency Care Center, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/4918/Adverto/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2025-26/5820 DATE: 06/01/2026

Short Term Tender and E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise Short Term Tender and e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 5 works under head of account 4059-CMIDP. Amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 80.00 Lakhs and maximum of Rs. 240.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of events:1)Pre-bid meeting date: 22-01-2026 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 23-01-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 27-01-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 29-01-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1607/KSMCA/2025-26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ
ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ, ವಾರ್ಡ್ 10, ಎನ್ ಆರ್ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ–563 125, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08154–252056/ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 08154–252117, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್:itstaff_ulb_chintamanicity@yahoo.in, cmc.chintamani@gmail.com, ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್:www.chintamanicity.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸಚಿ/ತಾಂಶಾ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/122/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.01.2026

ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆಜಿ, ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸಚಿ/ತಾಶಾ/ಸಿಆರ್/122/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.01.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ 2000 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **(1)** DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT40383 Call-2 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. **ಸೂಚನೆಗಳು: ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.01.2026 ರಂದು ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 17:30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **19.01.2026 ರಂದು ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.**

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:354/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

Letter No : 82 / **1st Corrigendum** Date: 02/01/2026

In continuation to this office Bid Identification **No.CCERWCSBD-Online-32/2025-26** invited vide this office Notice No.6245 Dtd.28.11.2025, partial modification of NCB has been made as follows:-

1. **Availability of Tender online for bidding Extended up to Dtd.29.01.2026 at 5.00 PM**
2. **Date and Time of seeking tender clarification if any on or before Dtd.28.01.2026 up to 2.00 PM**
3. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid) on Dtd.30.01.2026 at 11.00 AM.**
4. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid) Will be intimated later**

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.

O-1959: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
e-mail : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

Letter No : 91 / **1st Corrigendum** Date: 02/01/2026

In continuation to this office Bid Identification **No.CCERWCSBD-Online-33/2025-26** invited vide this office Notice No.6329 Dtd.28.11.2025, partial modification of NCB has been made as follows:-

1. **Availability of Tender online for bidding Extended up to Dtd.29.01.2026 at 5.00 PM**
2. **Date and Time of seeking tender clarification if any on or before Dtd.28.01.2026 up to 2.00 PM**
3. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid) on Dtd.30.01.2026 at 11.00 AM.**
4. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid) Will be intimated later**

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.

O-1958: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.**

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION (CHENNAI) LIMITED
PALLAVAN HOUSE, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 002.

TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of MTC, e-tenders are invited for the **"Procurement, Supply, Operation and Maintenance of 20 Double Decker Air Conditioned Electric Buses and Development of Allied, Electric and Civil Infrastructure on Gross Cost Contracting (GCC) Model".**

TENDER SCHEDULE

Tender document download date start from	Tender document submission start date & time	Tender document submission end date & time	Tender will be opened on (Date & Time)	EMD amount in Rs.	Pre-bid meeting date and time
08.01.2026	28.01.2026 12.00 Noon	07.02.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs	07.02.2026 at 16.30 Hrs	30,00,000/-	13.01.2026 at 15.00 Hrs

The tender documents are available in the tender websites : **https://tntenders.gov.in, https://mtcbus.tn.gov.in, https://tnidb.tn.gov.in.** Bidders are requested to upload their tender documents through the Government e-procurement portal **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** only. Any modification (if any) in tender terms and tender invitation period will be uploaded in the websites and the tenderers are requested to go through the above website periodically.

MTC (Chennai) Ltd reserves the right to Accept / Reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/ 109 /TENDER/2026 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL BODY MEETING (SGBM)

Notice is hereby given that the Special General Body Meeting (SGBM) of the Family Development Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited will be held as per the details given below, to transact the following special business:Date: Monday, 12th January 2026 Time: 11.00 am
Venue: First Floor, PMSC Hall, Puducherry.

AGENDA

1.To consider and approve the Amendment of the Bye-laws of the Society, subject to applicable provisions of the MSCS Act and Rules and as per the directions from the CRCS.
2.To consider and approve the Change of Registered Office Address of the Society. All members of the Society are requested to attend the meeting and participate in the deliberations. In case of absence, members are requested to make it convenient to note the decisions taken in the meeting.
By Order of the Board of Directors.

Place: Puducherry Sd/-
Date: 08/01/2026 Mathew Kattukaran
Chief Executive Officer
Family Development Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client propose to purchase an agricultural land i.e., the Schedule Property from **Smt. Shankaramma,** aged about 53 years, W/o. B.C. Shivalingaiah and D/o. Manchaiah, residing at Bidadi Police Station Backside, Bidadi, Bidadi Hobli, Ramangar Taluk & District, Karnataka and she represented to my client that she is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property described below with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same and no other person/s has/have any right, title, interest or claim of whatsoever over the same and the property is free from all encumbrances, charges, mortgage and lien and she has not entered into any Agreement for Sale or any other commitment in respect thereof.

Any person having any right, title, interest or whatsoever claim against the Schedule Property or having any objection of whatsoever nature to the proposed transaction may, within **7 DAYS** hereof, lodge with us his/her/their/its claim in writing in this behalf with the relevant documentary proof in support of such right, title, interest or claim or objection. If no such claim or objection is received within the said period, my client will presume that no person has any such claim and will proceed with the transaction.

: SCHEDULE PROPERTY :

All that piece and parcel of an Agricultural dry land measuring to an extent of **0-35 Guntas** in **Sy. No.403/3** of **HARISANDRA Village, Kasaba-1 Hobli, Ramanagar Taluk & District, Karnataka** and bounded on :

East by : Kempanna's Land, West by : Manenappa's Land, North by : Mayappa's Land and South by : Road.

Srinivasa S.A., Advocate
No.79/B, 7th Main, 50 feet Road, BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050.
Mob: 9008003449
E-mail : srinilegals@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date : 08-01-2026

DEPARTMENT FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS
Podium Block, V.V.Tower, Ground Floor, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi Road, Bangalore 560 001. Telephone No. 080-22866066, 080-22866046
Email Address: **dirdwdscka@gmail.com, dir-dwds-ka@nic.in**

Tender Notification No: DEDASC/2025-26/IND0111 Dated: 06-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement only)

Tender is invited by the Director, Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, under e-Procurement platform/e-portal in two parts (i.e., Technical bid and Financial bid) from the original manufacturers or their authorized dealers for supply of 260 braille kits for the students with Visual Impairment for the year 2025-26 to the Department for Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens. The interested bidders may see further details and may login in website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
The tender can be submitted on or before **21-01-2026 till 5:00 PM.** The technical bid will be opened on **22-01-2026 at 5:30 PM** and the financial bid will be opened on **23-01-2026 at 04:30 PM.** Department reserves all rights to accept, reject, incorporate changes and retender without giving any reasons. The details can be obtained from the Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Podium Block, V.V.Tower, 6th floor, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, Phone No:080-22866066, 28860907. For more info please see department website **www.dwdsc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Director,
Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/4900/Zen/2025-26

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi - 585105. Tel : 08472-220817,
Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No.KWB/CE(K)/TEC/AE-2/WS/Akashvani-OHT/Call-3/HSPT/2025-26/1314 Date: 06-01-2026

:: NOTICE INVITING TENDER-3RD CALL ::

1) Detail of Work: "Construction of 10.00 Lakh Litre capacity Shaft Type Over Head Tank on 15mtr staging in Akashvani Bhadavane @ Sy No. 277 Eshwar Nagar in Hosapete city Under Nagarothana (Municipality) Phase-4 Grants. Lumpsum- No variation. **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2025-26/WS /WORK_INDENT463)**, 2) Amount of Estimate: **Rs. 194.98 Lakhs (Excluding GST),** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: Rs. 2,92,000/-, 5) Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve) Months, 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal: **09-01-2026 after 17:00 Hours**, 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **16-01-2026 at 11:30 Hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **23-01-2026 up to 17:30 Hours**, 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender: **27-01-2026 after 11:00 Hours**, 10) Addl. information: **Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road,Telephone : 08472-220817 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com,** 11) Address of E-portal: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/945/KSMC&A/2025-26 **KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi**

BMCRI SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL (PMSSY)
Victoria Hospital Campus, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.
Phone / Fax: 080 - 26705883
E-mail: pmssysshospital@gmail.com, Website: www.bmcrissh.karnataka.gov.in

Date: 07-01-2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited through e-Procurement Portal for **Requirement of Various Equipments** to **BMCRI Super Speciality Hospital, Bengaluru.**

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No.	Details
1	BMCRI/SSH/ SUP/TEND-12/ 2025-26	Ultrasound Vessel Sealing Machine with Laparoscopic and Open Hand Piece and Craniotomy Drill with Attachments.

Schedule: ➢ Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders: **31-12-2025.** ➢ Last Date for Uploading the Tenders: **16-01-2026.** ➢ Date of Opening of Tender Technical Bid: **18-01-2026.** Tender details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the KPPP mode Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact **Special Officer, BMCRI Super Speciality Hospital, Victoria Hospital Campus, K.R. Road, Bengaluru. Ph: 080-26981928 / 26705883,** E-mail: **pmssysshospital@gmail.com**, Website: **www.bmcrissh.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Special Officer
DIPR/CP/4919/Adverto/2025-26 **BMCRI Super Speciality Hospital, Bengaluru.**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER - Call-2
(only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri-O&M), 8th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	Kaveri (O&M)-2	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/ 2181/2025-26, Dt:06/01/2026 (Reserved for Cat-1)	₹ 54,59,748/- / ₹ 55,000/-	14.01.2026 upto 4:00 pm	15.01.2026 after 5:00 pm
2.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/ 2182/2025-26, Dt:06/01/2026 (Reserved for Cat-2A)	₹ 82,20,437/- / ₹ 83,000/-		
3.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/ 2183/2025-26, Dt:06/01/2026	₹ 84,29,802/- / ₹ 1,70,000/-		
4.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/ 2184/2025-26, Dt:06/01/2026	₹ 30,86,450/- / ₹ 62,000/-		
5.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/ 2185/2025-26, Dt:06/01/2026	₹ 6,22,543/- / ₹ 20,000/-		
6.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/ 2186/2025-26, Dt:06/01/2026	₹ 23,59,021/- / ₹ 50,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)-2

7.	Kaveri (O&M)-4	BWSSB/EEK(O&M)-4/PB/ 280/2025-26, Dt:07/01/2026 (Reserved for ST Category)	₹ 16.35 Lakhs / ₹ 20,500/-	22.01.2026 upto 11:00 am	23.01.2026 at 11:30 am

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)-4

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/4921/CCL/2025-26

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
KOLAR

No.CMC/TECH-HS/TENDER/CR/13/2025-26 Date:05.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Government of Karnataka KPPP portal only)

As per Karnataka Transparency in the Public procurement act 1999-2000 law of Act 2000 and under Standard Tender documents Rules KW-4 the undersigned invites tenders in Two cover system for Eligible Contractor through **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** for the works detailed below. The tenderes may submit tenders for works given in the table through **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** of the Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Further details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned. **(1)** Last date & time for submission of tender**: 20.01.2026 hrs. 17.00 (2)** Date & time of opening Technical bids**: 21.01.2026 hrs 17.00**

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate Value (In Rs)	EMD Amount (in Rs)	Period
	Amrut 2.0			
1	**DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT52608** Development of Park RG Layout & Swamy Colony with 5 Years Operation and Maintenance Under Amruth 2.0 Scheme in CMC Kolar Limits.	1,46,97,000.00	2,00,000.00	9 Months

Sd/-
Administrators
CMC, Kolar &
Deputy Commissioner
Kolar District, Kolar

Sd/-
Municipal Commissioner
CMC, Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/R.O:433/KSMCA/2025-26

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Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ■ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ■ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ■ 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rupa S D/O, Sampangirama Reddy R/o No 58/6 Rk Nesara Opp Total Mall, Near Kaveri Convent School, Vp Road, Madiwala, Bengaluru-560068 have changed my name to Roopa S for all purposes.

I, RINKU Kumari Indarmalji Jain, R/a No.20, Swarna Mahal Appt, Flat No.2, S S Temple Street, V V Puram, Bangalore-560004 have changed my name to Rinku Kumari Jain vide affidavit dt: 07.01.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

LOST & FOUND

I, NIKHIL Chandra Jha, have lost my original B. Tech degree granted in 2007 by IIT Bombay, roll no. 03011032. If found please contact: nikhil.jha@iitbombay.org

REAL ESTATE

HILLTOP FARM For Sale In Wayanad. Cont:7338630606

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOST

I, Pachappa Chinnasamy have lost my original sale deed documents situated in Motham Agraharam Village of Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri Dist.
DOC No. 8368 / 2014
Sy No. 5/3, Plot No- 15A (32)
(Attached to Hosur Municipality)
(Area Extend - 1200 Sqft) (SRO Hosur)
While some personal work in Bangalore Near Byappanahalli Metro Station.
Case Registered No. 1593431 / 2025
Sakala No. P0012S50002541
Finder Please Contact or Return to this Address
Pachappa Chinnasamy,
Do.No.4/243, Mookondapalli Agraharam, Hosur, Krishnagiri.
Phone : 94447 14943

PUBLIC NOTICE

MADRAS RACE CLUB
CIN : U74999TN1922NPL001455
Regd. Office : Post Box 2639
Guindy, Chennai – 600 032.
Website : www.madrasraceclub.com
Tel. No. 91-44 22351171/2/3/5 & 22350774
Email Id : secretary@madrasraceclub.com

NOTICE TO CLUB MEMBERS

We refer to the Notice dated 24th December 2025 convening the Extraordinary General Meeting (**"EGM"**) of the Club Members of the Madras Race Club (CIN No. U74999TN1922NPL001455) at **10.00 A.M.** on **Monday, 19th January 2026** at the Registered Office of the Club, situated at Guindy, Chennai – 600 032, and also through Video Conference ("VC") Facility / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") to transact Special Business in the matter relating to Dr. T. Dhevanathan Yadav.
In the background that Dr. T. Dhevanathan Yadav has submitted his resignation from the office of Member of the Committee of Management, Madras Race Club, with effect from 2nd January 2026 and his resignation having been accepted by the Committee of Management, Madras Race Club, from the said date and in view of that, the subject matter of the Special Business proposed to be transacted in the aforesaid EGM having been rendered infructuous, Members of the Madras Race Club are hereby notified that the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club Members of the Madras Race Club, **convened to be held at 10.00 A.M. on Monday, 19th January 2026** at the Registered Office of the Club, situated at Guindy, Chennai – 600 032, and also through Video Conference ("VC") Facility / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") **stands cancelled.**
This **Notice of Cancellation of the Extraordinary General Meeting convened** to be held at 10.00 A.M. on Monday, 19th January 2026 at the Registered Office of the Club, situated at Guindy, Chennai – 600 032, and also through Video Conference ("VC") Facility / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") is for the kind information of the Members of the Madras Race Club.

On behalf of the Committee of Management
For and on behalf of
Madras Race Club

S. NIRMAL PRASAD
Secretary
Place : Chennai
Date : Tuesday, 6th January 2026

Outrage over police 'disrobing' woman during arrest

The police, however, deny the charge and claim that the woman, who has several cases against her, herself removed her clothes during the arrest; BJP leaders term it as a case of misuse of power

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

An incident of a woman, said to be a Bharatiya Janata Party worker, being disrobed while being arrested in Hubballi led to widespread outrage in the State after a video clip went viral on social media.

The police, however, have denied the charge and claimed that the woman, who has several cases against her, herself removed her clothes during the arrest.

Meanwhile, BJP leaders in Hubballi termed it a case of misuse of power and accused the police of acting at the behest of a Congress municipal councillor and resorted to an agitation in front of the Keshwapur Police Station, ultimately resulting in several of them, including Mayor Jyoti Patil and Deputy Mayor Santosh Patil, being detained as a precautionary measure.

The incident is said to have taken place in Keshwapur Police Station limits when the police went to arrest the woman based on complaints from local residents in connection with a clash that took place during mapping for SIR on January 1.

On Wednesday, Police Commissioner N. Shashikumar claimed that women constables, with the help of localites, brought clothes to cover her body, he said. He claimed that Sujata attacked four constables during the incident. Also, she had bitten one of them on the stomach.

Police Commissioner N. Shashikumar claimed that the woman, Sujata Handi, attacked the woman constables and removed her clothes on her own

Mr. Shashikumar said that three cases have been registered against Sujata for assaulting residents in her locality.

The incident took place on Monday when the police went to arrest her on the complaint of Prashanth Bommaji for assault.

Sujata has been remanded in judicial custody, he said.

Speaking to presspersons, Sub-Inspector of Police Kalavati denied the charge and claimed that the woman herself removed her clothes and attacked her and three woman constables in a bid to resist arrest.

Taking exception to the incident, BJP MLA Mahesh Tenginakai has accused the police of acting inhumanly at the behest of Congress councillor Suvarna Kallakuntla. Meanwhile, another video clip, in which the woman is being taken into the police van has surfaced with a claim that the woman herself removed her clothes.

The Police Commissioner has said that investigation will also include the posting of the video clips on social media.

Mayor Jyoti Patil who led a protest by BJP workers, courting arrest in Hubballi on Wednesday.
KIRAN BAKALE

Art meets festivity

A woman painting pots ahead of the Makar Sankranti festival at Pottery Town in Bengaluru on Tuesday.
J. ALLEN EGENUSE

Man dies after falling from building

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 26-year-old man fell to his death from the 16th floor of an apartment in Bagalagunte on Wednesday.

The deceased, Nikshep Bangera, was living with his parents and sister in an apartment at Shettihalli in Bengaluru North after returning to the city from Europe after six years, where he was pursuing higher studies.

After his return, he reportedly began exhibiting aggressive behaviour. The doctors reportedly diagnosed him with psychological problems and he was under medication, said the police.

The deceased, Nikshep Bangera, was living with his parents and sister in an apartment at Shettihalli

On Wednesday morning, Nikshep informed his mother that he was going to a mutt at Hesarghatta.

Later, around 8.30 a.m., Ravi, president of the Princeton Apartment Association, called the family and asked them to come down to the ground floor.

Upon reaching there, they found that Nikshep had fallen from the 16th floor and died on the spot.

The apartment security guard alerted the police control room.

The father of the deceased later approached the police station and filed a report stating that his son, who had been suffering from mental illness for several years, had died after falling from the apartment building. The complainant has stated that he has no suspicion against anyone in connection with the death and requested the police to conduct further legal procedures.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: Tele Manas 14416 or 18008914416 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

FIR against city school for cheating

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sarjapur police registered an FIR against the principal and management of a school for allegedly cheating parents by collecting admission fees claiming that the school had obtained all required permissions.

The case was registered based on a complaint lodged by P. Indu, a parent. The police have booked the accused, Euro School, located on Gunjur Road, under relevant provisions of the Karnataka Education Act and for cheating.

According to the complaint, the school invited applications for admissions, for which the complainant paid ₹1,000 as an application fee on November 8, 2025, to enrol her child. The school management allegedly assured parents that all necessary approvals had been obtained from the competent authorities. Ms. Indu later paid ₹25,000 towards admission fees. However, when she sought details of the permissions granted to the school, the management allegedly refused to share any documents.

Subsequent inquiries revealed the school building was still under construction and that the management had not been granted any official permission to run the institution, the complaint stated. The complainant alleged that several parents were cheated after the management concealed this information and collected money.

Ms. Indu approached the Child Rights Commission, the Education Department, and the Department of Public Instruction, seeking action against the school management.

8 booked for assault, abduction of transgender

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Srirampura police have registered a case against eight transgender persons for allegedly abducting, torturing, and humiliating a 22-year-old transgender person for refusing to repay money they had spent on the latter's gender-affirming surgery. The accused allegedly shaved the victim's head and assaulted the victim brutally, police said.

The FIR was registered under Sections 119 (Voluntarily Causing Hurt/Grievous Hurt to Extort Property or Constrain to an Illegal Act), 127 (wrongful confinement), 190 (unlawful assembly), 351 (criminal intimidation), and 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) on Sunday.

According to the complaint, the victim, identified as Jaromia, underwent gender-affirming surgery in November last year and had borrowed ₹1.5 lakh as loan for the ritual required to join the transgender community. Soon after, the accused allegedly began forcing her to beg and repay the EMI.

The victim managed to escape while the accused were asleep and, with the help of a friend, got herself admitted to a hospital

The victim stated that she needed time to recover from the surgery, but the accused allegedly began torturing her from the second day after the surgery, demanding that she arrange ₹10,000 per day. Unable to bear the harassment and abuse, Jaromia escaped and took shelter at a friend's house.

Police said that on Saturday, the accused allegedly called the victim near NIMHANS on the pretext of signing documents to apply for another loan.

When she reached the spot, she was allegedly forced into an autorickshaw, taken to a house at Kudlu Gate, and assaulted before being locked inside a room.

The victim managed to escape while the accused were asleep and, with the help of a friend, got herself admitted to a hospital, where she is undergoing treatment.

The victim has alleged that the accused robbed her of a 10-gm gold chain during the assault.

Woman set on fire loses battle for survival

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 41-year-old woman, who was allegedly set on fire by a man for rejecting his marriage proposal to her daughter, succumbed to her injuries after fighting for survival for over a fortnight, the police said.

The victim, Geetha, had sustained over 50% burn injuries. She died while undergoing treatment at Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru on Tuesday night.

According to the police, the incident occurred at Bhovi Colony where Geetha was running a provision store. The accused, Muthu Abhimanyu, 31, ran a tea stall in the same locality.

Investigations revealed that Muthu had been pressuring Geetha's daughter to marry him. When Geetha refused, he allegedly poured petrol on her and set her ablaze.

The Basaveshwaranagar police had registered a case and arrested the accused soon after the incident. Following Geetha's death, the case has been converted from attempt-to-murder to murder.

Six-year-old girl found murdered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A six-year-old girl was found murdered in a migrant colony at Pattandur Agrahara in Whitefield in east Bengaluru on January 5.

The victim, Shahnaz Khatun, is the daughter of Inzamam Sheikh, a migrant labourer from West Bengal. According to the police, Sheikh saw the child playing in front of the family's house when he returned home for lunch.

He also noticed a man, later identified as Yusuf Meer, a native of West Bengal who lived near their residence, in the vicinity at the time.

A few minutes later, when the parents realised Shahnaz was missing, they began searching for her. Her body was later found in a drain nearby.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the girl was strangled to death. Police said there was no sign of sexual assault, and added that the murder appeared to have been committed due to personal vengeance.

The Whitefield police have registered a case of murder. They are searching for the suspect.

However, a distraught Inzamam Sheikh told the police that he had no personal enmity or financial dispute with the suspect.

Clash breaks out in Kalaburagi Prison

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A clash broke out among inmates at the Central Prison in Kalaburagi on Wednesday, creating tension inside the jail premises.

The incident involved a prisoner from Bengaluru and a group of local inmates.

According to sources, the altercation was triggered by a trivial issue.

The Bengaluru-based inmate, identified as Venkataraman, the sources said, used abusive language against local prisoners.

This then led to a heated argument which soon escalated into a physical fight, with the local inmates assaulting Venkataraman. He had been transferred to the Central Prison here from the Parappana Agrahara Prison in Bengaluru as a punitive measure after he released a video.

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
29, IIE, Sahastradhara Road (IT Park), Dehradun
Phone No.: 0135-2607292, 2708100, Website: www.siidcul.com

Recruitment Notice-01/2026

State Infrastructure and Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited (SIIDCUL) is a Government of Uttarakhand enterprise engaged in industrial development activity in the State of Uttarakhand. Applications are invited from eligible candidates in the prescribed form for recruitment of following vacant posts in SIIDCUL:-

Sl.	Post	Pay Band and Grade Pay	Category	No. of Post
1.	Law Officer	15600-39100 (Grade Pay- 5400)	Gen	01
2.	Assistant Law Officer	9300-34800 (Grade Pay-4200)	Gen	01

The candidates must have attained minimum age of 21 years. The maximum age limit shall be 42 years as on 01.01.2026. **The last date for submission of application is 31.01.2026**
For details regarding qualification, experience, application format and other details and instructions please visit company website **www.siidcul.com.**
Managing Director, SIIDCUL

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that my Client/s intends to purchase Immovable Residential Property bearing **New BBMP Municipal No.9, E-Katha No.4101882538,** Old No.2, Situated at **4th CROSS, 8th MAIN ROAD, BYRASANDRA, 3rd BLOCK EAST, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU**, coming under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Old PID No.60-29-9, Ward No.169, measuring East to West -30 Ft, and North to South-50 Ft, in all measuring a total extent of 1500 Sq.ft bounded on East by -Site No.3, West by-Site No.1, North by-Road, South by-Site No.15, by paying substantial amount to the sellers **1) Mrs.NUSRATH AYESHA, 2) Mr. A NAVEED PASHA, 3) Mr. A NAHID PASHA, 4) Mrs. NIKHATH KHAN, Children of** S/o. Late. K. Anwar Pasha and Mrs.Aaqhila Banu, Residing at No.9, 4th Cross, 3rd block, East Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560011.

Any person/s/government body/financial institutions/bank/s having any right, title, claims, interest or objections in respect of the said Property shall register the same in writing with documentary proof with the undersigned subsisting his/her/its/their claims within **Seven (07) Days** from the date of publication of this Public Notice. If no valid objections are received within the stipulated time, it will be presumed that there are no claims/objections and my Client will then be free to conclude the transaction in respect of the said Property in My client's favor without any notice. Any objection thereafter will not be entertained.

Drafted by :
ILAHI-BAKASH, SYED ILYAS, Advocates, LEGAL WRITES
No. 1, Ist Floor, LAKSHMI COMPLEX, No.450/14/1, 27th Cross, 10th Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE – 560 011.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
ROSAR Branch, Bangalore Central, 5th Floor, Vijaya Towers, Trinity Circle, Bangalore-560001 Ph: No: 080-25011426, Email: sarbec@bankofbaroda.co.in

CORRIGENDUM

It is hereby brought to the notice of all Concerned that in the Publication made in The Hindu on 07th January 2026 in our Sale Notice there was a mistake that: In Short Description of the Immovable Property with known encumbrances if any, (owner / mortgagor name wrongly published as
1) Mrs. Elijabeth Antony Raj may please read as Mr. Mohit Kumar Baradia.
2) Mr. Mohit Kumar Baradia, 124, Kumba Building, 1st Floor, Bapuji Layout, Near KFC Restaurant, Chandra Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560040 may please read as Mr. Dheeraj Kumar Baradia S/o Rajkumar Baradia (Guarantor) and Mr. Mohit Kumar Baradia S/o Rajkumar Baradia, 124, Kumba Building, 1st Floor, Bapuji Layout, Near KFC Restaurant, Chandra Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560040.

THE HINDU GROUP

The all-new Kia Seltos Presents
THE HINDU LIT FOR LIFE 2026
THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA
In association with CHRIST, NITTE

LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Which Charles Dickens novel features the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge and his supernatural Christmas-night transformation?
2. Which novel follows the ascent of a brilliant chess prodigy, set against struggles with addiction and gender bias?
3. Who won the 2023 Nobel Prize in Literature for works described as 'innovative plays and prose that give voice to the unsayable'?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit https://newsth.live/LFLQUIZ to take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. The Alchemist | 2. George Orwell | 3. Egmore

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Srinithi, Tirupati | 2. Roshen Roy, Ernakulam
3. Priya Priyadarshini, Bhadrak

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Material Management Department
('e' Tender Notice for the supply of Stores, No.EPS/114/2025)

PCMM/WCR on behalf of the President of India invites the following advertised tenders through E- procurement System. No manual/postal offers shall be entertained. Tenders can be accessed under the link website https:/ireps.gov.in" for details and for submission of Tender.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Short Description	Tendered Qty.	Due Date
1	38254155B	POLY RING	70864 Nos.	03/02/2026
2	40251836	Porcelain Stay Arm Insulator	2071 Nos.	05/02/2026
3	38255025	Top Side Bearer Liner	12000 Nos.	06/02/2026
4	38255022	UPGRADED HIGH CAPACITY DRAFT GEAR	1500 Nos.	09/02/2026
5	38254120	POLY LINING TOP & BOTTOM OF CONSTANT CONTACT	17057 Sets.	09/02/2026
6	38253575	BRAKE BEAM COMPLETE WITH BUSHES	1650 Nos.	16/02/2026
7	40252757A	60 KVA transformer	22 Nos.	18/02/2026
8	38253559	7/8" (22.2 MM) DIA BULL LOCK BOLT PIN	69282 Nos.	02/03/2026

" For tenders with estimated value below Rs. 50 lakh, interested firms are advised to visit www.ireps.gov.in"

SD/-
For Principal Chief Material Manager, WCR, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

From Page One

Ballari Range DIG transferred

Varthika Katiyar, who held charge as DIG of Ballari range, had recommended action against former SP Pavan Nejjur, for alleged lapses in handling law and order during the January 1 clashes. Ms. Katiyar has been transferred and posted as DIG, Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement.

In another key posting, Suman D. Pennekar, who was serving as Deputy Commissioner of Police (Intelligence), Bengaluru, has been appointed as Superintendent of Police, Ballari district. The post had fallen vacant after Mr. Nejjur was suspended on January 1. The district police went without a head for five days as the state government failed to post a SP, raising eyebrows.

The violence erupted following a clash between supporters of Ballari City MLA Nara Bharath Reddy and Gangavathi MLA G. Janardhan Reddy. A Congress worker was killed by a gunshot during the incident. Following reports of stone-pelting, police used canes and tear gas to bring the situation under control.

Karnataka urges Kerala Governor to reject Malayalam language Bill

Karnataka Border Area Development Authority, in its petition, has demanded that Kasaragod, where more than 70% of the population is Kannada speaking, be excluded from the Bill's purview

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Karnataka Border Area Development Authority delegation with Kerala Governor Rajendra Arlekar in Kasaragod on Wednesday.

In yet another thorn in the Karnataka-Kerala relationship, the Karnataka government has taken objection to the Malayalam Bhasha Bill, 2025, and urged Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to reject it. Karnataka has termed the Bill as "unconstitutional" and against the interest of the Kannada-speaking linguistic minority in Kerala, especially those living in the border district of Kasaragod.

A delegation from the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority, on behalf of the Karnataka government, met the Governor at Kasaragod on Wednesday and handed over a petition to reject the Bill.

The Bill makes Malayalam the compulsory first language in all schools across Kerala. A similar Bill passed in 2017 had been rejected by the President.

Pending for approval

"The Kerala Assembly recently has passed a Bill called Malayalam Bhasha Bill, 2025, and submitted for your assent, which is pending in your office. It is similar to the Bill of 2017," the authority's letter to the Governor said.

"We want Kasaragod, where more than 70% of the population is Kannada speaking, to be excluded from the purview of the Bill. As per Article 350 and Article 350A, it is the duty of the State government to protect rights of linguistic minorities. This Bill violates the constitutional rights," said authority secretary Prakash Mattihalli, who led the delegation. "Mr. Ardekarje promised us that he would consider our plea."

This comes close on the heels of Kogilu Layout demolition following which sparks flew between Karnataka and Kerala leaders, especially after Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan dubbed the demolition as "brutal normalisation of bulldozer raj."

Pointing out the provisions of the Bill, the Karnataka government has said, "Section 2(6) defines that the first language Malayalam should be taught as compulsory subject in Kerala schools upto class 10 in all government and aided schools.

In Kasaragod and other Kannada speaking areas of Kerala, linguistic minority students are studying Kannada as their first language and another language as second language."

'Violation of rights'

Terming the provisions as "violation of constitutional rights," the Karnataka government has said, "If the bill is accepted, Kannada students may have to forcibly learn Malayalam though they do not know Malayalam."

The Karnataka government fears that the implementation of the Bill in Kasaragod will have far reaching consequences and will affect Kannada language and in particular students whose mother tongue is Kannada and are studying in Kannada-medium schools in the border district.

Previous directions to Kerala govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government's petition has also drawn the attention of the Governor to directions that have been issued to the Kerala government by the Assistant Commissioner of Linguistic Minorities, Ministry of Minority Affairs.

This direction pertains to the appointment of Kannada teachers in Kannada medium schools, fixing sign boards in Kannada at police stations, railway stations and national highways in Kasaragod district, government correspondence in Kasaragod to be in Kannada and filling up of vacancy in Kasaragod district based on the linguistic minority population and not on the basis of applications received by the recruiting agency.

"Despite these instructions, constitutional provisions of Articles 30, 347, 350, 350A and 350B and other instructions issued by the Government of India with regard to protection of linguistic minorities have been violated," the petition said.

Gali seeks arrest of Ballari MLA over Cong. activist's death

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

MLA for Gangavati Gali Janardhana Reddy on Wednesday demanded the arrest of MLA for Ballari Nara Bharath Reddy, claiming that video footage showed a gunman linked to Mr. Bharath Reddy shooting Congress activist Rajashekhar Reddy during a group clash in front of his house in Ballari on January 1.

Addressing a joint press conference at his residence in Ballari along with former Minister B. Sriramulu, Mr. Janardhana Reddy said the violence was the result of a 'planned conspiracy' rather than a spontaneous clash.

To support his claim, he played a video clip recorded by one of his supporters, which he said showed Mr. Bharath Reddy's gunman firing from behind at Rajashekhar. Citing what he described as 'clear visual evidence', he demanded the immediate arrest of Mr. Bharath Reddy on murder charges.

'Deliberate firing'

Displaying the footage, Mr. Janardhana Reddy alleged that the firing was deliberate and not accidental. "The video shows Rajashekhar throwing stones at my residence and then running away after the police began beating him. It was at that moment that the bullet struck him from behind. This is not a misfire. It was intentional," he said.

Claiming that the violence occurred in two phases, one earlier in the evening led by Mr. Bharath Reddy's close associate Satish Reddy and another under the leadership of Mr. Bharath Reddy himself around 9.30 p.m., Mr. Janardhana Reddy alleged that the fatal firing took place during the latter.

He also alleged that the original plan was to kill Chanal Shekhar, a Congress activist from the Lingayat community, and put the blame on him and the BJP to trigger large-scale violence and polarisation.

Backing the claims, Mr. Sriramulu questioned the police for not arresting Mr. Bharath Reddy despite what he described as strong evidence.

Mr. Sriramulu also accused the police of selective action. Both leaders demanded that the case be handed over to the CBI and announced plans for a large protest rally in Ballari on January 17.

Responding to the allegations, newly-appointed Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Ballari Range, P.S. Harsha, on Wednesday said it was premature to comment on the matter.

"However, I will discuss the issues raised with the investigating officers and ensure that an impartial investigation is carried out," Mr. Harsha told *The Hindu*.

"We will collect detailed information, conduct a comprehensive examination of the events and take all necessary action strictly in accordance with the law," he said. Mr. Harsha also visited the crime scene.

Can be a leader only when one walks the talk, says Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday called upon the Opposition to unite and exert pressure on the Centre for speedy implementation of irrigation projects in the State.

Speaking at the inauguration of medical college in Haveri, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "Karnataka is not getting cooperation from the Centre. During Basavaraj Bommai's tenure, the Centre had announced a grant of ₹5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra project, but it has not released any funds till now. Nirmala Sitharaman and Narendra Modi have to keep their word. I had used the phrase 'word power is world power' sometime back. One has to keep his word, then only he or she will be called a leader."

Mr. Shivakumar said he had gone to Delhi recently to sign the Bedthi and Varada river linking project. "Fix an appointment with the Prime Minister to discuss the State irrigation projects with the Centre, we will go under the leadership of Basavaraj Bommai. We will urge the Centre for issue of Gazette notification for Upper Krishna project," he said.

Sustainable push: State to expand distribution of menstrual cups

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government granted revised administrative approval for the distribution of sanitary napkins and menstrual cups.

As part of efforts to promote environmentally sustainable and cost-effective menstrual hygiene practices, the Karnataka government has decided to expand the distribution of menstrual cups across the State from the next academic year. This follows a pilot programme implemented in two districts.

The State government last week granted revised administrative approval for the procurement and distribution of sanitary napkins and menstrual cups to the targeted 19.64 lakh adolescent girls (from class 6 to II PU) under the Shuchi programme for 2025-26.

As per the government order, menstrual cups will be introduced only for students from classes 9 to 12, while sanitary napkins will continue to be provided to students from classes 6 to 8, ensuring uninterrupted access during the transition period. Even among older students, the use of menstrual cups will be entirely voluntary, with beneficiaries free to continue opting for sanitary napkins.

The procurement will be carried out through the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (KSMSCL) in accordance with the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act and rules. For 2025-26, the government has approved the purchase of 1.79 crore units of sanitary napkins (one unit comprising 10 pads) at an estimated unit cost of ₹30.47 and 10.38 lakh menstrual cups at an estimated unit cost of ₹65.34. The total approved expenditure is ₹61.35 crore.

Menstrual cups were earlier introduced on a pilot basis in Chamarajanagar and Dakshina Kannada districts, under which around 15,000 cups were distributed. The pilot was aimed at assessing acceptability, comfort, usage practices and awareness levels among adolescent girls. Officials said feedback from this exercise informed the decision to expand the programme cautiously.

Distribution model

Under the revised distribution model for classes 9 and 10 and first- and second-year pre-university students, beneficiaries will receive six units of sanitary napkins and one menstrual cup for six months, instead of 12 units of napkins. The government estimates this will lead to savings of about ₹17.26 crore on sanitary napkins, while offering an additional hygiene option.

Each beneficiary will receive one menstrual cup, which is reusable and can be used safely for up to a year with proper hygiene. Orientation sessions will be conducted to provide guidance on correct usage, cleaning and storage, a senior official told *The Hindu*.

Not a replacement

The official stressed that menstrual cups are not a replacement for sanitary napkins but an additional option.

The initiative is intended to reduce long-term costs and address environmental concerns arising from disposable sanitary waste, while also improving menstrual hygiene awareness and reproductive health literacy.

Sanitary napkins will continue to be distributed at the rate of one unit per month per beneficiary, covering over 19.64 lakh students from classes 6 to 12.

Owing to supply shortages from August 2025 until the completion of the KSMSCL tender process, the government had earlier approved district-level local procurement of sanitary napkins for a three-month period at a cost of ₹10 crore, in compliance with KTPP norms.

Party is not by or for individuals: Priyank

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Priyank Kharge

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday lashed out at former Minister and MLA K.N. Rajanna for his remark that the Congress would become irrelevant in the State without Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Mr. Rajanna, a Congress MLA, said on Tuesday that there was no Congress without Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Kharge, without naming Mr. Rajanna, said that after winning and coming to power, issuing such statements was wrong.

"The party is not by, or for, individuals. None must forget that we (leaders) are here because of workers. Without workers, neither I nor anyone else is a leader," Mr. Kharge said, while responding to a question.

Asked about delays in appointing Congress workers to boards and corporations, Mr. Kharge said they must have patience.

Mr. Kharge continued his tirade against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) after a special court issued notices to him and other Congress leaders in a defamation case.

"The RSS is an unregistered, unregulated and unconstitutional body. Why should we be scared? I follow the Buddha-Basava ideology. Ambedkar's struggle is in my blood," Mr. Kharge said.

He further said, "Why does (RSS chief) Mohan Bhagwat get advance security liaison at the taxpayers' expense? It is not that the RSS should be around for another 100 years. It is better if everyone functions as per the Constitution," he said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

DEATH

It is with great sadness we announce the passing away of our dear father

Mr. V. C. INDER KUMAR JOHN
Age: 75 years
Passed away peacefully at his residence on 04.01.2026.
Funeral Service on 10.01.2026, 10.30 AM at the Kilpauk Cemetery Chapel followed by burial at 11.30 AM.

Forever in our hearts
Sheena and Shiju
(+919841211241)

DEATH

OBITUARY

Shri R KRISHNAN
92 years
son of late Shri R S Ramasubba Iyer (Rajakkalmangalam), attained shivalokaprapthi at 4 pm on 7.1.2026 - survived by Smt Chellamal, K Sriram, K Sridhar, Vidya and Srinath.
The final rites will commence from 10 30 AM, 8.1.26 at Flat No 11, Sreebagh Apartments, No 17, Baliah Avenue Mylapore Chennai - 4
9941835035, 9940633490, 9841022309

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

In loving memory of my Appa,
PRABHU RAMADAS,
on the fourth year since you left us.
We miss you everyday, da.

அழிவது உடல், அழிவற்றது உயிர்

- Mila Prabhu

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
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ADMISSION IN UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES: 2026-27

For seeking admission in Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) programmes, the registration portals of CUET-UG and CUET-PG of the National Testing Agency (NTA) are open. Desirous and eligible applicants are requested to visit following links/websites for registration to get CUET scores.

S.N.	Programmes	Link/Website	Closing date
1.	For Undergraduate courses	https://cuet.nta.nic.in/registration-for-cuetug-2026-is-live/	30.01.2026
2	For Postgraduate courses	https://exams.nta.nic.in/registration-for-cuetpg-2026/	14.01.2026

For eligibility visit **www.dhsgsu.edu.in** Contact Ph. **07582-297123** Email: **admission@dhsgsu.edu.in**

Registrar

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
COMMISSIONERATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
No.05, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.

Roc.No.3732 /A&A/RIGHTS/2025 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 07.01.2026

Bids are invited from potential bidders for supply of Furniture to 17 sub divisional OSC's across the districts of Karur, Sivaganga, Theni, Tiruvarur, Chengalpattu, Ranipet, Kallakurichi and Tirupathur through the e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department website-**www.scd.tn.gov.in** as well as on the tender website-**tntenders.gov.in.**

Bids are to be uploaded through the e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**

Project Director – TN RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

DIPR/ 94 /TENDER/2026

Project Director – RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare of the Differently Abled

Blowout in Mori-5 well a geological surprise: official

The Hindu Bureau
RAZOLE

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) National Crisis Management Team Head G. Srihari on Wednesday concluded that the Mori-5 blowout of natural gas was a "geological surprise."

On January 5, the blowout of natural gas was reported in the Mori-5 well during the workover activity aimed at increasing the flow of natural gas at Irusumanda village.

Mr. Srihari, who had earlier served in the Krishna-Godavari Basin for 19 years, is heading the Mori blowout action plan, which includes containing the fire and capping, before "killing the well for further assessment" on the state of the natural gas reservoir.

Speaking to a section of the media on the sidelines of the blowout control exercise on the site, Mr. Srihari observed, "The well has pure natural gas and there is no deposit of oil. The blowout is absolutely a geological surprise, which happens due to the reservoir's parameters."

"The estimations of the natural gas reservoir and its flow may have been underestimated. However, there is no failure of the equipment installed in the well for the operations as found during the blowout action plan," said Mr. Srihari.

On deployment of the U.S.-based Wild Well experts to cap the well, the ONGC Rajahmundry Asset authorities confirmed to *The Hindu* that a decision was yet to be taken on engaging the experts.

Vikram Saxena, Director (Technology & Field Services), ONGC, New Delhi, is also monitoring the execution of the blowout action plan.

Chances of Vijay-starrer's release on January 9 bleak

Justice P.T. Asha of Madras High Court has reserved orders on production firm's plea to grant censor certificate and is likely to pronounce them only on January 9

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The chances of actor Vijay's much-anticipated film *Jana Nayagan* getting released on Friday appear bleak, as the Madras High Court on Wednesday reserved orders on a writ petition by the production house, KVN Productions LLP, against non-issuance of censor certificate by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

Justice P.T. Asha deferred her verdict after hearing the arguments of Additional Solicitor General (ASG) AR.L. Sundaresan for the CBFC and senior counsel Satish Parasaran, assisted by advocate Vijayan Subramanian, for the production house. She indicated that the order may get pronounced only on January 9.

Poster of *Jana Nayagan*

The ASG said one of the five members of a examining committee, which had watched the film on December 19, had sent a complaint to the CBFC chairman, stating his objections were not considered before the committee recommended the issuance of U/A 16+ certificate, subject to certain excisions.

Hence, the CBFC chairman had decided to refer the film to a revising committee, the ASG said and contended the chairman was fully empowered to take such a decision, under the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules of 2024, before the issuance of the censor certificate.

Asserting the production house could not seek a direction from the court, which amounts to preventing the statutory body from performing its lawful functions, the ASG said the court could only direct the CBFC to perform its functions within the statutory time limits and take a decision in one way or the other.

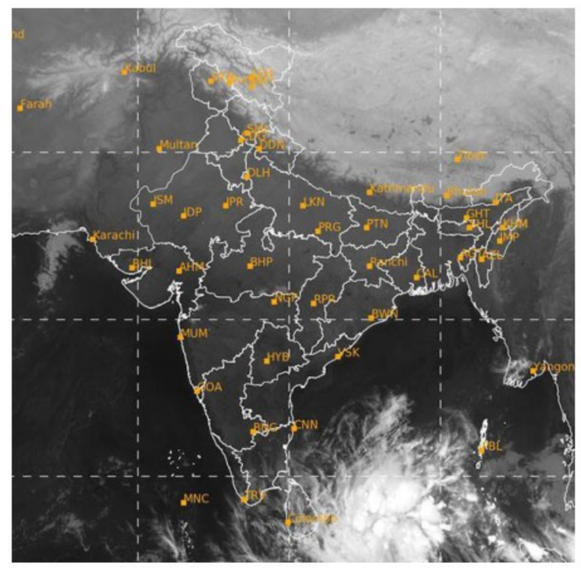
On the other hand, Mr. Parasaran argued the CBFC need not give much credence to a dissent by just one of the five members of the examining committee. He said the recommendation of the majority of four members should prevail over the minority view.

He said the production house had carried out all the 27 excisions and modifications recommended by the examining committee, and hence, the film should rightfully be given the U/A 16+ certificate without referring it to the revising committee, purportedly on the basis of the "so called complaint" by a single member.

"The CBFC must discharge its duty within the confines of law. I'm only besieging Your Lordship to remind them of their public duty and put them on track.... I've invested ₹500 crore. It cannot be dealt with lightly. I've also been shouting from the roof that the movie is to be released on January 9. I applied as early as on December 18 and went through the Tatkal procedure too," the senior counsel added.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.45 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	21.8	9.2	Kozhikode	—	33.2	23.4
Ahmedabad	—	25.8	13.8	Kurnool	—	30.5	17.9
Aizawl	—	22.8	8.5	Lucknow	—	16.6	9.6
Allahabad	—	17.0	9.2	Madurai	—	32.0	23.1
Bengaluru	—	26.4	17.0	Mangaluru	—	32.2	22.1
Bhopal	—	23.4	8.4	Mumbai	—	32.2	19.0
Bhubaneswar	—	26.1	10.2	Mysuru	—	28.4	17.4
Chandigarh	—	13.0	7.6	New Delhi	—	16.7	8.6
Chennai	—	28.8	23.6	Patna	—	16.2	9.8
Coimbatore	—	29.6	22.2	Port Blair	—	30.0	25.9
Dehradun	—	22.2	5.7	Puducherry	—	29.6	21.3
Gangtok	—	15.0	5.2	Pune	—	30.3	15.2
Goa	—	33.7	19.2	Raipur	—	27.7	10.9
Guwahati	—	23.0	12.1	Ranchi	—	23.2	6.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	14.0	Shillong	—	15.9	4.0
Hyderabad	—	28.2	12.9	Shimla	—	16.8	3.6
Imphal	—	23.0	7.6	Srinagar	—	10.0	-1.6
Jaipur	—	17.6	6.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.9	23.3
Kochi	—	31.4	22.8	Tiruchi	—	29.5	21.6
Kohima	—	14.8	4.6	Vijayawada	—	29.0	20.0
Kolkata	—	23.6	9.8	Visakhapatnam	—	27.1	20.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	124	88	100	174	—	
Bengaluru	4	19	38	179	196	
Chennai	6	6	54	167	135	
Delhi	29	53	112	322	271	
Hyderabad	13	14	74	108	126	
Kolkata	14	74	49	311	254	
Lucknow	6	45	62	317	193	
Mumbai	26	90	29	186	129	
Pune	6	71	80	215	183	
Visakhapatnam	20	42	40	203	153	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 345 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Webinar to offer insights on research-based career options

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A webinar focusing on the importance of developing research culture in higher education institutions will be organised by SASTRA University, Thanjavur in collaboration with *The Hindu Education Plus* on January 10 with experts from India's top educational institutions and government agencies. Titled 'Building a Research & Innovation Ecosystem', it is part of the Career X for Gen Z series.

Career insights

The session would offer students insights into research-oriented career options, interdisciplinary innovation, national science initiatives, and emerging opportunities across academia, industry, and government funded research and development programmes. It will highlight the importance of fostering research culture on campuses, strengthening innovation ecosystems, and equipping students to contribute meaningfully to the country's scientific and technological advancement.

Expert panel

The panel of speakers will include Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Institute Professor and Chairman, Immersive Technology and Entrepreneurship Labs, IIT Madras; Shivkumar Kalyanaraman, Chief Executive Officer, Anusandhan National Research Foundation; Government of India; Dhirendra S. Katti, Director, IIT Goa; Rajeev Ahuja, Director, IIT Ropar; and S. Swaminathan, Dean (P&D) and Director, Centre for Nanotechnology and Advanced Biomaterials, SASTRA University.

Registration details

The session will begin at 11 a.m. on January 10, 2026 and will be moderated by Soma Basu, journalist. For registration, students may visit https://newsth.live/THSASBE.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No. 2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagara, Bengaluru-560 009. Phone: 080-22265383
Website: **www.kiadb.in** email: **ceoem@kiadb.in**
No.: KIADB/HO/ADMN-1415/15782/2025-26 Date: 07.01.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Change of Address

The general public is hereby notified that, the workplace of the head office of **Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board** has been shifted from "No. 49, 4th & 5th Floor, East Wing, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001" to "No. 2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagara, Bengaluru-560 009" from 01.01.2026. All future office correspondences should be made in the new address.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer & Executive Member

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society
(An Organisation of Govt. of Karnataka)
No. 8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052
No:KREIS/EE-1/Tender-24/2025-26 Date:07.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for Construction of (Sc) Dr BR Ambedkar Govt Post Metric Boys Hostel at Nettigere, Bengaluru south taluk & District, Construction of STP, Supply and Installation of Digital Name Boards and Civil Repair works in the jurisdiction of KREIS **(Tender Indent No. 805, 521/call-4, 584/call-3, 590/call-4, 591/call-4 and 730/call-2)** through e-Portal vide website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 07.01.2026. The last date for receipt of tender is 07.02.2026 and 22.01.2026 respectively. The details may be viewed at above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-1, KREIS, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/4908/CCL/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works:

No. CEE/Tr(Op)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AE-2/2025-2612212-16 Date: 05.01.2026

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/TZH/KVR/2025-26/Konaje Combined Package-11 a) For Providing 110kV breaker for split bus isolator operation at 110/33/11kV sub-station Konaje, **b)** Providing 2 nos' of additional 11kV switchgears at 110/33/11kV sub-station Konaje and **c)** Providing improvements to earthmat at 110/33/11kV sub-station Konaje in Operation division Kavoor. **(Combined Package).**

No. CEE/Tr(Op)ZH/SEE(O)/AEE-2/FA-56 /2025-26/12224-27 Date: 07.01.2026

2) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3177 for Associated work pertaining to Replacement of 1X10MVA, 110/11KV Power Transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11KV Power Transformer at 110/33/11KV **Bhadravathi** sub-station in Bhadravathi Taluk Shivamogga District on PTK Basis- **Work code CD1112.**

The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "tenders" on or after **08.01.2026.** Other details can be had from the office of undersigned.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer (Electy.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan-573201.**

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
No:BDA/EE/HPD-1/TEN/T-172/2025-26 Date:07.01.2026

SHORT-TERM INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)-Call 2
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)

Short-Term Tender is invited for Providing Consultancy Services for **Project Management and Quality assurance with Marketing for the Construction of 4 BHK and 3 BHK Housing Project at Sy. No. 104 of Doddathoguru Village in Electronic City, Bengaluru South on Lump Sum Turnkey Basis based on Tenderer's Own Design** under Two Cover System Housing Project work invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/SE0062/CALL-2).

Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **07.01.2026 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid enquiries: **12.01.2026, 3.00 P.M. (3)** Date and time of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **14.01.2026, 3.00 P.M. (4)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **02.02.2026, 4.00 P.M. (5)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **03.02.2026 after 4.30 P.M.**

Interested Bidders can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-1 of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, HPD-1 Division, BDA,Bengaluru

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
e-mail: pdretail@bmrc.co.in **Website:** www.bmrc.co.in
Ph: 080-22969274, 22969280

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Tender for providing Transaction Advisory (TA) Services for the Development of land parcel located at Swami Vivekananda Road (SV Road) Station of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited – reg.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has invited bids from interested agencies via e-Tender through the Karnataka Public Procurement (KPP) Portal for providing Transaction Advisory (TA) Services for the Development of land parcel located at Swami Vivekananda Road (SV Road) Station of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited. The tender is being conducted through an open competitive bidding process, all interested bidders are required to submit their bids electronically through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal at: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

1	BMRCL Tender Notification No. and date	**BMRCL/PD/SVRD/TA/2025-26/01 Dtd.: 08/01/2026**
2	Date from which Bid document is available for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal, Govt. of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**	**08.01.2026.**
3	Last date for seeking clarification if any	**13.01.2026 up to 18.00 Hrs.**
4	Last date and time for uploading of tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform:	**22.01.2026 at 16.00 Hrs.**
5	Date and time of opening of Technical Bid	**23.01.2026 at 17.00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Director, Finance

Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department (PWD), Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru
Short Term Tender Notice No.: 27 / 2025-26 Date:03.01.2026

In the Tender Notice seen above Tender is invited from eligible contractors for total 25 works through KPP Portal under Head of Account: 3054-03-337-0-05-200 Maintenance of State Highway, 3054-04-337-1-10-200 Maintenance of District Main Roads, 2059-80-053-4-00-200 Repairs/Maintenance of various Department Buildings, 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District and other Roads - Improvements, 3054-03-102-0-01-200 Maintenance of State Highway Bridges, 5054-03-101-0-02-132 Main District Road Bridges, 5054-80-190-0-01-132 Karnataka State Road Development Corporation Limited – Capital Expenditure (State Highway Bridges) & (District Main Road Bridges) related to Sub divisions of Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru District. Details of capabilities to undertaking or having implemented the works (as per Standard Tender Document KW-1, 2 & 3) should be attached. Contractors can be awarded the contract only if they have the minimum eligibilities as mentioned in Act 3. Minimum Approx. Amount Rs. 6.00 lakhs and Maximum Approx. Amount Rs. 105.00 lakhs. For Tender to be submitted through KPP Portal for 25 works (Indent No. 29097 (2nd Call) on 12.01.2026, Indent No. SE0774 (2nd Call), SE0776 (2nd Call), SE0763 (2nd Call), SE0759 (2nd Call), SE0770 (2nd Call), SE0775 (2nd Call), SE0766 (2nd Call), SE0773 (2nd Call), SE0768 (2nd Call), SE0771 (2nd Call), on 13.01.2026, Indent No. 30226, 31231 on 19.01.2026, Indent No. 31923, 31927, 31926, 28290 on 22.01.2026, Indent No. 31925, 31922, 31924, 31892, 32015 on 23.01.2026, Indent No. 30039 on 27.01.2026) tender should be submitted within 4.30 PM. For further details the case worker can be contacted during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department (PWD), Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/134/1555

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking a title investigation of an immovable property being an agricultural land more fully described in the '**Schedule**' hereunder and hereinafter referred to as '**Schedule Property**'. The said title due diligence is being conducted for and on behalf of our Client who is desirous of acquiring by way of sale, the Schedule Property from its present owners: *(i)* Mr. Basha Jan, son of Mr. Gulam Ali Khan; (ii) Mrs. Bibi Jan daughter of Mr. Gulam Ali Khan; (iii) Mr. Chand Pasha son of Late Dastagir Khan; and (iv) Mr. Moula Ali Khan, son of Late Havaldara Khan (hereinafter collectively referred to as the '**Owners**'). The Owners have represented to our Client that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or submit their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof to support such claim/s or objections and must be delivered to us at the address given below within a period of **10 (Ten) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners, has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property, and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being agricultural land bearing Survey No. 73/4, measuring 01 Acre (no kharab land), situated at Bettahalli Village, Sulibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk. The Schedule Property is bounded as follows:

East by : Land bearing Survey No. 73/1;
West by : Road;
North by : Lands bearing Survey No. 73/2, 73/5, 73/6, 73/7 and 73/1; and
South by : Land bearing Survey No. 73/1.

Sd/-
Mr. Srinivas B.R., Partner
DSK Legal,
Prestige Loka, No. 201,
2nd Floor, No. 7/1 & 7/7, Brunton Road,
Bengaluru – 560025, Tel: 080-69548770.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 08.01.2026

K-RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
Website: www.kride.in **Email ID: gmhr@kride.in**

VACANCY NOTICE NO.01/2026

No: K-RIDE/HR/195/Vacancy Notification/01/2026 **Date:08.01.2026.**

K-RIDE the Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka and Ministry of Railways is executing the flagship Bangalore Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) and other doubling projects. To meet its immediate requirement, K-RIDE invites applications for filling up the following posts on deputation/contract basis.

Vacancy Notice No	Post	No of Posts
01/2026	Assistant Manager [Public Relations)	01
02/2026	Assistant Manager (SAP PS & MM)	01
03/2026	Sr. Executive/Executive (FICO)	01
04/2026	Sr. Executive/ Executive (HR/HCM)	01

Last date for submitting applications is **09.02.2026.** For detailed eligibility conditions and other details please visit **https://kride.in/careers-in-k-ride/**

DIPR/CP/VCPL/4904/2025-26 **Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER/HR(I/c)**
@KridePrm Kride Bsrp Kride_bsrp KRIDE.BSRP

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF/ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

KPCL invites tenders through "e" Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION

1) Tender No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3843 Dated: 05.01.2026 Belt vulcanizing and Repairs of Conveyor Belts of various grades and sizes at coal handling plant Unit 1, 2 & 3 for a period of one year. Total tender amount: **Rs.2,71,06,102/-. EMD: Rs.4,07,000/-** Last date for submission of bids: **05.02.2026 up to 5.00 PM** Further details can be obtained from the office of the **Executive Engineer (CHP) Mechanical-1,** . Mobile: +9194482 90756.

Bids are invited for the **e-Auction of following scrap materials as is where is basis available at BTPS.**

2) KPCL/2025-26/AUCTION123 Sale of Scrap Grinding Roller. 3) **KPCL/2025-26/AUCTION124** Sale of Scrap Bull ring segments. **4) KPCL/2025-26/AUCTION125** Sale of Scrap Feeder Belts. Last date for receipt of tenders: **09.01.2026.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the **Executive Engineer (Stores),** BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583152, Bellary Dist. Mobile: 94808 30601.E-mail: eestorebtps@gmail.com

RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION

3) Tender No. KPCL/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT2951/CALL-2 Dated: 02.01.2026 Design, Supply, Retrofitting, Testing and commissioning o LT modules and MCC panel at Clarifier-3 pertaining to EE (OLA)E Division.

4) KPCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT3207/CALL-2 Dated: 02.01.2026 Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 3200A & 800A LT Air Circuit Breaker in Unit # 2 to 4.

5) KPCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT3093/CALL-2 Dated: 19.06.2025 Design, Supply, Retrofitting, Testing and commissioning of Air Circuit Breaker for existing 90KW CDPH LT Motor Module in WTP # LT switchgear and providing with multifunction numerical Motor protection relay.

6) KPCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT3727/CALL-2 Dated: 03.01.2026 Supply, laying of cable and Cable Tray at cooling tower area of Unit # 1 to 6 at RTPS.

7) KPCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT2948/CALL-2 Dated: 23.05.2025 Design, Supply, Retrofitting, Testing and commissioning of LT Modules to Air Circuit Breaker and Providing with Multifunction numerical motor protection relay and MCC panel at Clarifier-1 pertaining to EE (OLA)E Division. Last date for receipt of tender: For Sl. No. 2 to 6: **10.01.2026 up to 17.00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from **Executive Engineer (OLA) E,** Mobile: 94495 98834. E-mail: eeolaertpskpcl@karnataka.gov.in or eeolartps@gmail.com

8) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3763/CALL-2 Dated: 01.01.2026 Laying of new 300NB pipeline for discharging Ash slurry from Unit 3A Series to ash pond-2 by providing pipes and fittings. Last date for submission of bids (Two Parts): **10.01.2026 up to 16.30 Hrs.**

9) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3835 Dated: 02.01.2026 Providing, Erection/Installation, commissioning of New Instrument air compressors (IAC) of M/s Chicago Pneumatics make (Model-HXIT-25 NT) for Unit 3 & 4 AHP Dry System **(Turn Key Project).** Last date for submission of bids (Two Parts): **14.01.2026 up to 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the **Executive Engineer (AHP-1),** KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar-584170. Raichur Dist. Mobile: 94495 96544.

Letter against spirit

The Election Commission's mandate is to ensure no Indian is disenfranchised

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has told the Supreme Court of India that it has a constitutional duty to ensure that only citizens are enrolled as voters, and that no foreigner makes it to the electoral rolls. Even a single foreigner cannot be allowed to exist on the voter list, the ECI argued before the Court on January 6. The ECI is defending its ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which has struck off millions of names of voters. The concerns raised by all Opposition parties, legal scholars and civil society relate to the evident burden and harassment being caused to ordinary citizens of the republic in having to prove their existence and identity. Nobody has argued for the inclusion of any foreigner, or for keeping electoral rolls as they are today – faulty and impossible to navigate. At the heart of this debate is the relation between the ECI's claims and the process. Over many decades, the ECI has consistently grown its institutional integrity – despite occasional slippages – by expanding the franchise not merely as a formality but also as a substantive right. The maxim that no amount of escaped criminals justifies the punishment of a single innocent person has resonance in this context. In a leap into the phantom world of foreigners taking over the country, the real challenges to the integrity of India's electoral process are being overlooked. Or, maybe, the foreigner paranoia is being whipped up as a facade for polarisation.

That Article 324 of the Constitution grants the ECI independent "control over the preparation of electoral rolls" is not contested. The concern is that the ECI is not acting independently and in a manner that boosts confidence in the electoral process. The litmus test of an electoral process – very much like a judicial process – is whether the side that loses still trusts the process. Unfortunately for India, the current ECI has its priorities turned on their head when it frames its constitutional duty as the removal of foreigners, and not the enrolment of every Indian citizen. While several authorities have a duty to look for foreigners, only the ECI has the duty to enrol Indian citizens as voters. Through changes in rules and their partisan application, the ECI has undermined its own stature and the sacred duty assigned to it by the Constitution in the recent past. Now, by unleashing avoidable suffering and inconvenience upon Indian citizens under the garb of chasing the last foreigner, it is misreading the letter and ignoring the spirit of its constitutional duty.

The middle path

The Assured Pension Scheme of Tamil Nadu is a good compromise

By formulating the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS), the DMK government has done its best to resist the temptation of returning to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for its employees. It has sought to strike a middle path in its implementation of a key electoral promise made before the 2021 Assembly election and the need for fiscal prudence. Apart from nearly two lakh employees under the OPS, there are around six lakh government staff under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) since April 2003. It is this section that has been urging the DMK to fulfil its electoral assurance – OPS restoration. The new scheme, which blends the OPS and the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) that is in force for central government staff for the last one year, assures pensioners 50% of the last drawn pay, while retaining the element of employees' contribution – a feature common to the CPS and UPS. One can make out that the basis for the determination of the pension – 50% of the last drawn pay in the last month of service – and the provision of a minimum assured payout, regardless of the duration of service, are in favour of the employees. Death-cum-retirement gratuity, an OPS feature, has been included.

The announcement has been made just before the Assembly poll in April-May. There has also been a debate on the State's outstanding debt – around 26.1% of GSDP, a ratio that has been declining over the last five years though not to the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level of around 21.5%. Besides, at least till 2033, when the last set of government staff covered under the OPS is expected to retire, the State government will have to provide for the retirement of OPS staff as well as its share of contribution for TAPS employees. The current financial year has not been very encouraging in terms of growth rate in the State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR), which generally accounts for about two-thirds of Tamil Nadu's revenue receipts. In the first half (April-September) of the current year, the SOTR's growth rate was 3.94% over the receipts in the corresponding period of the previous year, against the projected 22.6%. The State has its fingers crossed over the likely impact of the restructuring of GST (from September 22) on its finances. After the "successful" Bihar example where the ruling dispensation handed out election-eve doles, the managers of State finances now have limited space to counter any pressure from their political bosses to spend more. The employees should understand the circumstances in which the announcement has been made. The main factor against the OPS is the feature of pension reset with the implementation of recommendations of every Pay Commission. Though the principal Opposition party, the AIADMK, has pulled up the DMK for not having lived up to the poll promise, it has not promised to restore the OPS if it wins the Assembly poll. It appears that the leadership of the two Dravidian majors understand that the State should not be pushed into a perilous financial position.

'Natgrid', the search engine of digital authoritarianism

Apar Gupta

is a lawyer and the Founder Director of the Internet Freedom Foundation

We tend to quantify the tragedy of the terror attack in Mumbai in November 2008, by the over 160 lives lost. "26/11" was beamed into the living rooms of the country's elites for three days through broadcast television. The sounds of bullets and explosions, the dome of the Taj Hotel swallowed by smoke, and the valour of the Mumbai Police played out alongside a steady refrain in studios and by commentators of a "major intelligence failure". That charge was not conjured out of grief alone.

The report by the high-level inquiry committee on 26/11 and the material placed before Parliament pointed to lapses in the handling of intelligence alerts. This "intelligence failure", it was argued, was the inability to stitch scattered fragments into a coherent warning. David Coleman Headley, a key conspirator, travelled to India on several occasions, leaving a paper-and-pixel trail in visa applications, hotel registries and travel itineraries. Security hawks offered a seductive proposition. Would the lives lost been saved had those disparate data points been aggregated and analysed in time?

Evolution of a 'crown jewel'

Out of that psychological aftershock emerged institutional expansions, but the technological crown jewel was the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID). Its premise was a middleware interface that would allow 11 specified central agencies to query databases across 21 categories, routed through provider organisations spanning identity and assets, travel and movement, financial intelligence and telecommunications.

Even in its early days, the unease was visible. NATGRID was first publicly announced on December 23, 2009, in a speech by the Home Minister.'

The constitutional question that arose immediately was not whether the state may ever conduct surveillance, but on whether a project of this magnitude could operate without a statutory framework and independent oversight. This daily reported on February 10, 2010 ("'Big Brother' fears stall Chidambaram data plan") that "Ministers raised queries about safeguards and said there was a need for further study". Yet, on June 14, 2012, NATGRID was cleared not through an Act of Parliament, but by executive order and the Cabinet Committee on Security, with a first-phase allocation of ₹1,002.97 crore branded "Horizon-I".

For years, NATGRID's constant delays led people to believe it was 'vaporware'. A project that existed on paper but did not actually work as a massive search engine for tracking citizens that was only announced to calm public anger after the 26/11 attacks. Well, it is now becoming a reality that can no longer be ignored.

> The shock of 26/11 continues to haunt India, but the remedy — the National Intelligence Grid — is cause for deep concern

Two recent reports in this daily ("National intelligence grid gains traction as Central agencies, police scour for information", December 8, 2025 and "Intel grid linked to NPR with details of 119 crore residents", December 26, 2025) reveal a quantitative and qualitative expansion of this mass surveillance project. First, following a national conference of Directors General of Police in Raipur in late November 2025, chaired by the Prime Minister, States were asked to "scale up" NATGRID usage. The first report also said that NATGRID receives around 45,000 requests every month. Worse, access, once presented as the preserve of central intelligence and investigative agencies, is being widened to police units, including officers down to the rank of Superintendent of Police.

An integration that unsettles

The second development that is even more unsettling is the reported integration of NATGRID with the National Population Register (NPR). The NPR is a repository with the details of 1.19 billion residents, with a relational cartography of households, lineages and identities. It is also politically volatile, repeatedly invoked in the acrimony surrounding the National Register of Citizens (NRC) as a prelude to citizenship filtering. Grafting a population register onto an intelligence query platform crosses a fundamental boundary. It shifts the paradigm from tracking discrete events as intelligence inputs to the mapping every Indian. NATGRID's evolution is not unfolding in the technological climate of 26/11, but in 2025, amid rapid advances in machine learning and large-scale analytics.

This daily has also highlighted the deployment of "Gandiva", an analytical engine capable of "entity resolution".

This is further explained as providing the triangulation that is required to decide whether fragmented records belong to the same individual. Paired with facial recognition that can trawl telecom Know Your Customer (KYC) databases and driving-licence records, this is no longer the state's "search bar". It is inference at scale and changes the nature of the risk. Here, intentions are subjectively determined by an algorithm.

Two features make this qualitatively different from older surveillance debates. First, the spectre of bias. Algorithms do not merely excavate truth but reproduce distortions embedded in the data they ingest and claim that they are objective determinations based on pattern recognition. If policing is already skewed by caste, religion or geography, analytics will harden those inequities and cloak them in an aura of objectivity. For the affluent, a false positive is an administrative nuisance. For a young Muslim man in a small town, already living under a pall of suspicion, an automated "hit" can trigger an ordeal and misidentification may carry a blood price.

Second, the tyranny of scale. The danger of modern analytics is not omniscience, but ubiquity. NATGRID reportedly classifies queries by sensitivity, and officials maintain that every access is logged and justified. Without independent scrutiny, these are facial safeguards. When tens of thousands of requests are processed each month, logging risks becoming a clerical ritual particularly in the absence of autonomous oversight, which is lacking even at the level of Parliament.

The lack of course correction

Defenders will fall back on the familiar claim that NATGRID is a matter of life and death. But is it so once it has drifted from counter-terror into everyday policing? Intelligence failures are rarely born of data droughts alone. They are more often the products of institutional weakness, perverse incentives and the rot of unaccountability – as we learned in 26/11 where the local police had not conducted any firearms training for over a year.

Tragically, a correction seems distant. Our constitutional courts have lapsed into deep slumber, allowing the expansive privacy doctrine in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) & Anr. vs. Union of India & Ors.* (2017) to gather dust while the surveillance state expands. The legality of intelligence programmes that lack any clear statutory foundation or meaningful oversight has not been squarely adjudicated, despite multiple pending cases. In place of scrutiny, we have a martial public temper fanned by political rhetoric and cultural moulding, including mainstream cinema, that treats questioning the security establishment as heresy. The result is a near silence about accountability for acts of terrorism such as the New Delhi bombing of November 10, 2025, and the heartbreaking loss of 15 lives. Is it impolite to ask whether there was an "intelligence failure" even with NATGRID in place?

The shock of 26/11 continues to haunt us, but we have mistaken the remedy. If we genuinely care about prevention, we need professional investigation insulated from political whims, transparency about intelligence lapses, and oversight vested within the parliamentary and the judiciary. Without these, NATGRID is an architecture of suspicion, built in the name of safety and normalised through fear, but functioning in the service of digital authoritarianism.

Fine-tune this signal to sharpen India's AMR battle

Ramya Kannan

Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement on antimicrobial resistance, in his last 'Mann Ki Baat" broadcast for the year 2025 be the anagnorisis that we have been waiting for to galvanise action on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in India? Doctors feel that it might well be the one fell swoop to stop in its tracks what could easily be the biggest emerging health crisis of India.

In his address (129th edition) on December 28, Mr. Modi mentioned antimicrobial resistance as a "matter of concern for us." Quoting from the Indian Council for Medical Research's (ICMR) dataset, he mentioned that antibiotics are proving to be less effective against pneumonia and urinary tract infections. He went on to hit at the heart of the AMR crisis in India – "thoughtless and indiscriminate use of antibiotics by people". These were not medicines to be taken casually or without the advice of doctors, the Prime Minister stressed. "People have started believing that popping a pill will solve everything. But it is because of this that diseases and infections are overpowering antibiotics." Appreciably, he ended with a piece of advice that his listeners and followers will do well to religiously practise: "Avoid taking medicines by yourself, particularly antibiotics."

Mainstreaming the subject

It is, by now, common knowledge that while there are many prongs that contribute to the galloping AMR in the country, the biggest contributor is the irrational use of antibiotics. Commonly known as the 'misuse and overuse' problem, AMR however, has remained in the preserve of the infectious diseases experts and the corridors of hospitals, and in policy circles. Until now. That is where Mr. Modi's remarks will make a difference, coaxing AMR out of the rarefied domain into the mainstream, where there is awareness of the public risk it poses, along with the links to everyday behaviour.

By invoking national data and appealing directly to citizens to avoid over-the-counter antibiotics, the speech translates lab-based warnings into a public call to action, from the pulpit by the head of the government. This is why it is reasonable to expect it to have an impact on the population in a manner that no other intervention in the past in the sector – the first National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance or the ban on colistin use as a growth factor, for instance – has managed. Striking at the broadest base is where the success of this appeal lies, and public awareness will be absolutely key in deciding whether the AMR numbers see an upper trajectory or whether they go down south in the future.

> The 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast of December 2025 will increase awareness, but expanding the surveillance network for AMR is crucial

But, merely at hitting the base will no longer be sufficient, at this stage of the AMR pathway in India. It has grown like a hydra-headed beast and it is a One Health approach that can behead the monster effectively. The need for a One Health approach has become current by force of circumstances where cognition of the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health now actively shapes solutions.

Most non-urban centres left out

At this juncture, enhancing the number of surveillance sites is a critical aspect to marking and following the trail of AMR in India, experts point out. They contend, that currently, while the network is steadily expanding, there is still no exhaustive dataset for India as a whole, representative of the wide variance in the country.

Surveillance sites are located largely in urban centres and tertiary care centres, and may drive up the average as the bulk of the non-urban centres are not even accounted for. The urgent need now is to expand the surveillance network in a manner that will provide a reasonably accurate position of community prevalence of AMR in India.

India's National AMR surveillance network (NARS-Net), which provides data to the World Health Organization's Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS), currently stands at 60 sentinel medical college laboratories.

However, for the recent GLASS report (reporting period January to December 2023), information was gathered from 41 sites in 31 States/Union Territories. NARS-Net was established in 2013 to determine the magnitude and trends of AMR in different geographical regions of the country, and laboratories under this network include government medical colleges. These labs are required to submit AMR surveillance data on nine priority bacterial pathogens of 'public health importance' and some fungal pathogens as well.

'Include private hospitals'

Recently, in a letter to the Director of the National Centre for Disease Control, Professor, (Dr.) Ranjan Das, the nodal agency for AMR surveillance in the country, Dr. Abdul Ghafur, of the Chennai Declaration on AMR and an infectious diseases specialist, said, "... the only credible approach is to present true national data – data not limited to tertiary care hospitals, but inclusive of secondary and primary care centres across the country. If such data are included, the national resistance picture will naturally be more balanced and representative." He also makes the case for including private hospitals in the network too.

The 2015 WHO Global Plan on AMR recommended a blueprint addressing five objectives: raising awareness, strengthening surveillance and research, reducing infections, optimising antimicrobial use, and ensuring sustainable investment in new medicines, diagnostics and vaccines. Mr. Modi's speech will increase awareness, something that is essential, but expanding the surveillance network for AMR is a critical function that will require investments, strategies, monitoring and enforcement and as much political will.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Private diplomacy

It is perplexing that the sensitive issue of fixing high-profile dialogues and discussions with the Trump administration has been entrusted to unconnected firms especially when the Indian government has a range of diplomatic channels at its disposal (Front page, "Indian Embassy hired Trump aide's firm for talks on trade, bilateral ties during Operation Sindoor", January 7). How can unrelated entities be given the role of arranging for key discussions between two governments? Will this not amount to a transgression of established diplomatic norms and mandatory procedures governing such sensitive issues?

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Trump's obtuse moves

It is as clear as daylight that the U.S. President, Donald Trump, is defying all norms to slake his thirst by doing obtuse things to achieve his aims and objectives. His moves against Venezuela are nothing but a clear violation of international law (Editorial and Editorial page, January 7). They also prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the American President has cast his eyes on the abundant crude oil in Venezuela. But what is eating President Trump?

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

The happenings in Venezuela expose the disturbing reality of today's global order. Even if such action violates international law and the UN Charter, strangely enough, U.S. courts may still assume jurisdiction under American domestic law, which permits judges to try an accused irrespective of how they were brought before the court. This peculiarity of U.S. law, when combined with overwhelming military power, effectively sidelines international norms. The inability of the UN, the ICJ and the wider international community to respond meaningfully underscores their growing irrelevance in restraining unilateral actions by powerful states. If global governance is to retain credibility, this episode should prompt reflection on strengthening multilateral institutions.

Dr. Thomas George,
Pala, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address

Youth leadership is key to Viksit Bharat

Mansukh Mandaviya

is the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Labour and Employment, Government of India

India's growth story will be written by those who are shaping its ideas today. Across the country, young Indians are thinking deeply about how India can grow faster, govern better and become developed by 2047. Their ideas are emerging from campuses and communities, start-ups and sports fields, classrooms and village meetings. The real question is no longer whether the youth have something to contribute, but whether their ideas are given a credible platform to influence the nation's direction. The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) is designed to provide that very platform.

India is home to the largest youth population in the world. It is therefore but natural that the direction of the nation's future will be shaped not merely by policies or institutions, but by the imagination, conviction and courage of its young citizens. This vast reservoir of *yuva shakti* is far more than a demographic advantage; it is India's greatest national asset, capable of driving innovation, strengthening democracy and propelling the country towards inclusive and sustainable development.

Lead the change

During my time as Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, I have had the opportunity to engage with young Indians in varied settings, on university campuses, in rural districts, at sports arenas and during youth-led community initiatives. What consistently stands out is the seriousness with which young people think about the nation's future. I recall meeting a group of rural youth volunteers who had organised informal learning centres in their villages. With limited resources but strong conviction, they were addressing gaps in education and skill development through locally designed solutions. Experiences like these reaffirm a simple truth: when young people are trusted and given space, they do not merely participate, they lead.

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call from the Red Fort to bring one lakh youth without political backgrounds into public life, the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue was launched in January 2025 reimagining the National Youth Festival in an entirely new format. Over 30 lakh young people engaged through the Viksit Bharat Challenge, more than two lakh essays were submitted, and thousands of youth presented their ideas at the State level. The journey culminated at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, where 3,000 youth leaders interacted in a free-flowing dialogue with the Prime Minister, who spent hours listening to their ideas and inspiring them to lead.

Shaping the India of 2047

Beyond the numbers, it was the nature of engagement that made the Dialogue truly historic. It recognised, both in letter and spirit, that the voices of India's youth matter in shaping the India of 2047. Young participants were encouraged to think critically about national challenges, propose solutions and align personal ambition with collective purpose.

The strength of the youth leadership platform lies not only in its scale, but in its design. Diversity of thought, language, culture and lived experience is embedded into the very structure of the initiative. Youth from urban and rural India, students and professionals, innovators and grassroots leaders come together on a common platform. Multiple stages of engagement ensure that ideas are refined through dialogue and exchange, not filtered out by geography, language or background. In doing so, the Dialogue ensures that every young person who participates has both a voice and a platform to amplify it.

India's youth have always been at the heart of the nation's defining moments, from the freedom struggle to the building of the institutions of an independent India. Today, the nation once again looks to its youth not just for participation, but for leadership and dynamism in co-creating India's growth story.

Building on the success of the first edition, VBYLD 2026, scheduled to be held from January 9-12, 2026, signals a decisive leap from a national youth convening to a platform with global resonance. With new initiatives such as Design for Bharat and Tech for Viksit Bharat, and the inclusion of the international Indian youth diaspora, the dialogue expands beyond borders.

More than 50 lakh young people participated in the Viksit Bharat Quiz, the first stage of selection for VBYLD 2026, making it one of the largest youth engagement exercises of its kind. Over four intensive days, participants from every corner of the country will engage with leading national and global voices, drawing upon practical insights, ideas, and visions that transcend disciplines and geographies.

Dialogue to Direction

What truly sets VBYLD 2026 apart, however, is that it gives our *yuva shakti* an opportunity not only to speak, but to be heard. On 12 January, observed nationwide as National Youth Day in commemoration of Swami Vivekananda, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will personally interact with the youth at Bharat Mandapam, listening to how they imagine, and intend to shape the future of Bharat.

More than a platform for dialogue, the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue is a movement that calls upon young Indians to lead from the front, confront national challenges, and channel their ambitions towards building a Viksit Bharat.

A Viksit Bharat will be built by those who have the confidence to lead and the commitment to serve. India's youth are ready. The nation must be ready to walk with them.

The vast reservoir of *yuva shakti* in the country is far more than a demographic advantage; it is India's greatest national asset

Cash politics, development paradox

Lakshmir Bhandar scheme has proved electorally transformative

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh
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On January 3, a little-known Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader in West Bengal triggered a political row by asking husbands to "lock up their wives" who are beneficiaries of the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme to prevent them from voting for the Trinamool Congress during the elections.

The remark sparked outrage in the social and political circles of the State. The Trinamool Congress said it exposed the BJP's "anti-women" mindset. The BJP State committee leader Kalipada Sengupta was made to apologise for his statement. Yet the controversy also brought renewed attention to Lakshmir Bhandar, one of the largest cash incentive schemes of the West Bengal government.

Announced by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in February 2021, just months before the Assembly elections, the scheme proved electorally transformative. By January 2025, it had reached 2.21 crore beneficiaries – nearly half of the State's female population. Women aged 25 to 60 receive ₹1,000 per month under the general category and ₹1,200 under reserved categories.

Electoral edge

The political impact has been unmistakable. The scheme has helped keep large sections of the women electorate firmly aligned with the Trinamool Congress despite serious incidents of violence against women – including the rape and murder of a doctor at Kolkata's R.G Kar Medical College and Hospital in August 2025.

Data from the 2021 Assembly elections showed that nearly 50% of women voters backed the Trinamool, while only 37% voted for the BJP. The BJP leadership is acutely aware of this gender gap and of how cash incentive schemes help entrench it.

In December 2025, when Ms. Banerjee unveiled a report card titled 'Unnayaner Panchali' (The Song of Development), of her government's performance over the past 14 years, Lakshmir Bhandar featured prominently. Comparing it with a one-time cash benefit of ₹10,000 announced in Bihar before elections, the Trinamool chairperson argued that her government delivers sustained annual support rather than pre-poll handouts.

"They (NDA in Bihar) gave ₹10,000 before the election, and there is a bulldozer raj now after the polls," Ms. Banerjee said.

Cash-based welfare schemes catering to different social groups has become a defining feature of the Banerjee administration. By her own count, the State now runs 95 welfare schemes, with more promised in the next few months before elections are announced, taking the number of schemes well past three digits.

Even political opponents have tacitly acknowledged the impact of such schemes on the electorate. Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently assured voters in Kolkata that none of the Trinamool government's welfare schemes would be discontinued if the BJP came to power.

While these cash incentive schemes may provide a political advantage to the ruling party, it is also important to understand their overall economic and social impact on the population. West Bengal's multidimensional poverty rate stood at 11.89%, according to Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023. Although poverty declined faster than in Gujarat, the State ranked only 13th nationally, behind populous States such as U.P. and Bihar.

Real change

Cash transfers may help households stay just above the poverty line, but they often fail to generate lasting structural change.

The State's own Kanyashree scheme – designed to reduce child marriage through conditional cash transfers – illustrates this limitation. The scheme has about one crore beneficiaries on paper, but West Bengal continues to record highest number of child marriage almost a decade after the scheme was launched.

The latest Sample Registration System data shows that 6.3% of women in the State were married before the age of 18, compared to a national average of 2.1%.

There is little doubt that cash incentive schemes give Ms. Banerjee a decisive electoral edge. But while putting money directly into voters' hands may shape political outcomes, it does not automatically translate into durable social transformation. Over the past few years, West Bengal has emerged as a case study of this development paradox.

How every ₹100 is spent by Indian households

Indians are shifting from subsistence needs to aspirational and service-oriented spending

DATA POINT

K. Chandrasekar

The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoS&PI) captures spending pattern of Indian households across various consumption categories. Conducted every five years, the HCES provides granular estimates of Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) for both rural and urban populations, covering a wide range of goods and services.

The survey rounds for 2022-23 and 2023-24 represent the first comprehensive update to MPCE data in over a decade, offering valuable insights into India's shifting consumption landscape. These findings are central to revising poverty estimates, informing social sector policy, and understanding the lived realities of India's expanding middle-income population.

This article examines long-term MPCE trends from 1999-2000 to 2023-24, with a focus on six key expenditure categories. In this analysis, MPCE is expressed as the proportional expenditure on an item for every ₹100 of total spending.

Decline in MPCE share on food and beverages for both urban (from ₹48 to ₹39 per ₹100) and rural areas (from ₹59 to ₹47 per ₹100) confirms Engel's Law, which states that as real income rises, the proportion of income spent on food declines, even if absolute expenditure increases. **(Chart 1)**

Further, a fall in expenditure on cereals, alongside higher spending on fruits, eggs, fish, and processed foods, signals a shift from staple-heavy diets to more varied, protein-rich diets – albeit unequally.

Despite marginal increases, particularly in rural areas, spending on pan, tobacco, and other intoxicants remains a low share of MPCE, accounting for under ₹3.8 per ₹100 of spending. From a public health perspective, the trend calls for targeted awareness programs in rural belts. **(Chart 2)**

The reduction in per capita fuel spending reflects policy successes, such as Saubhagya (rural electrification) and PM Ujjwala Yojana (LPG access). Lower urban spending may also reflect the use of energy-efficient appliances and access to reliable power supply. Modern fuels, in place of biomass or kerosene, improve quality of life and are an example of expenditure substitution. **(Chart 3)**

The decline in spending on clothing, bedding and footwear is moderate and consistent with the transition from need-based consumption to periodic discretionary spending. Rising competition, fast fashion, and lower textile prices may also have contributed. Rural India's slightly higher or similar spending may indicate seasonal dependence and growing aspirations. **(Chart 4)**

The urban housing rent share rose significantly (₹4.46 to ₹6.58 per ₹100), aligning with urbanisation, rental stress, and migration to metropolitan hubs. Rural rent remains minimal due to widespread self-owned housing, informal tenure, or rent-free arrangements. **(Chart 5)**

The miscellaneous category includes aspirational expenses such as health, education, conveyance, consumer services, and other similar costs. Its rising share, particularly in rural MPCE (from ₹21.87 to ₹35.82 per ₹100), reflects a broadening of the consumption basket. This trend aligns with inclusive growth, deeper digital penetration, and echoes improved reach and quality of both public and market-based services. **(Chart 6)**

Taken together, these trends reflect that society is undergoing an economic transition, with consumption patterns gradually shifting away from subsistence needs toward more aspirational and service-oriented spending.

The views expressed are personal.

Changing consumption basket

The data for the charts were sourced from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoS&PI) for the period 1999-2000 to 2023-24.

The writer is a Deputy Director with the Ministry.

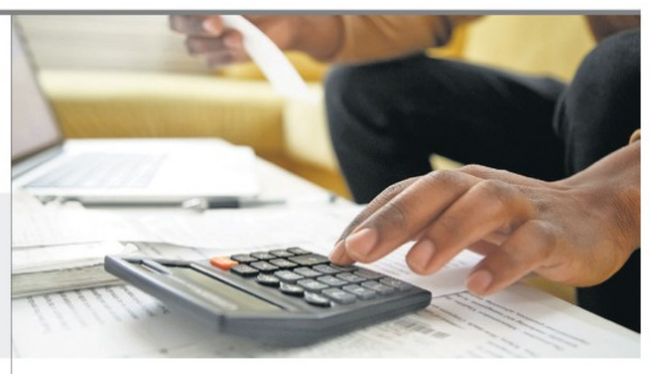


Chart 1: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on **Food & Beverages** (₹ per ₹100)

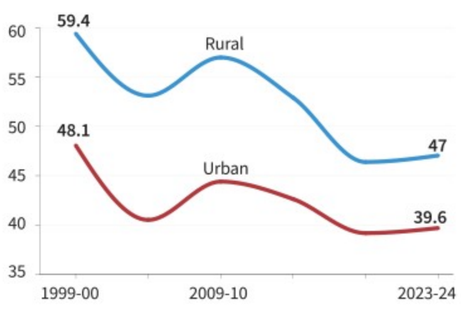


Chart 2: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on **Pan, Tobacco & Intoxicants** (₹ per ₹100)

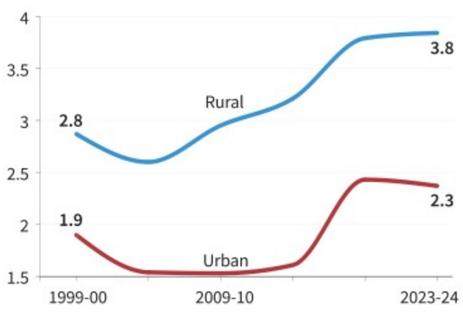


Chart 3: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on **Fuel & Light** (₹ per ₹100)

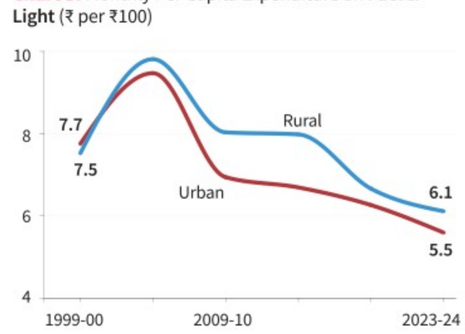


Chart 4: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on **Clothing, Bedding & Footwear** (₹ per ₹100)

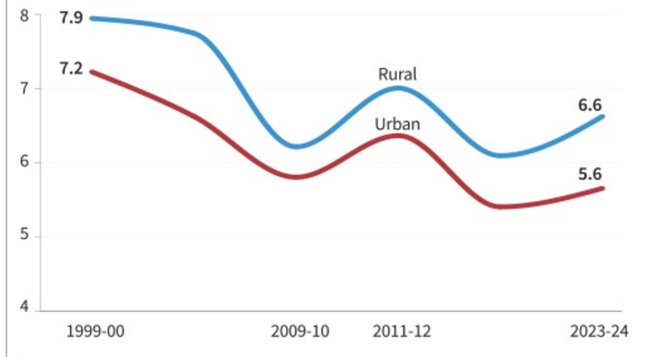


Chart 5: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on **Housing (Rent)** (₹ per ₹100)

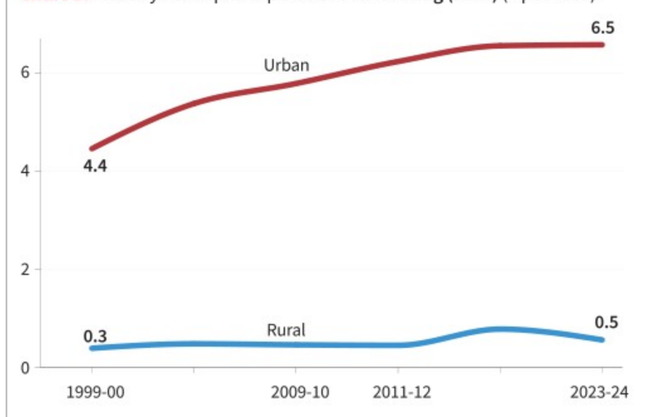
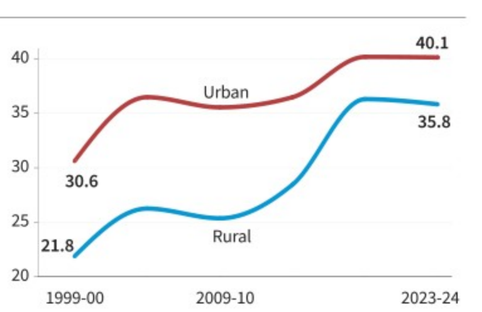


Chart 6: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on **Miscellaneous** (Health, education, conveyance, consumer services and other expenses) (₹ per ₹100)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 8, 1976

World Bank aid for food godowns

MADRAS, Jan. 7: The Food Corporation of India, which is to build up a sizable buffer stock in the wake of plentiful food production and continuing imports, is facing a major problem, that of creating additional storage capacity, and is looking to the World Bank for aid.

The World Bank has shown interest in the programme, which the FCI has already initiated, and Sir John Crawford, Adviser to the Bank's President, Mr. Robert McNamara, is expected to visit India on January 16 for talks. The World Bank may give aid if it is convinced that the creation of such additional storage would lead to increased food production and more sales through the public distribution system.

Mr. A.K. Dutt, Managing Director of FCI, told newsmen that on the whole this year was going to be a year of plenty and "this creates a problem of storage for us because there is going to be very heavy procurement and imports will continue." The FCI hoped to build up a sizable buffer stock – 7.5 million tonnes at the end of March and anything between 11 and 12 million tonnes in the peak season July-August. With imports also continuing the FCI was faced with a "situation of emergency" with regard to storage, he said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 8, 1926

Indian Birds to Fiji Islands

Mr. J.C. Ward from Australia had been in Madras on an interesting mission. His mission is to secure for the Fiji Islands a large number of insecting birds. It would appear that the Fiji Islands was once infested with species of rats which proved pest in the Island for sugarcane plantations and in order to destroy this pest a large number of mongoose, was imported, which not only destroyed pests but also the birds of the Island. With extinction of birds the Fiji Island became infested with another kind of pests namely, moths and insects which are causing destruction to coconut plantations and consequently reducing a great source of revenue. To get rid of these pests, the Government of Fiji addressed the Government of Australia for their permission to import a large number of birds, but since Australian birds are mostly fruit eating birds this attempt also proved a failure.

From Page One

Govt. pegs FY26 growth at 7.4% despite tariffs

The mining and quarrying sector is estimated to contract in 2025-26 by 0.7%, as compared to a growth of 2.7% the previous year.

The tertiary sector, which comprises the service sectors, is expected to see growth quicken to 9.1% in 2025-26 from 7.2% in 2024-25. Within this, the 'financial, real estate and profession services', and the 'public administration, defence, and other services' sub-groupings are both expected to grow at 9.9% in 2025-26.

The 'trade, hotels, transport and communication' category is expected to grow at a relatively slower 7.5% in 2025-26, although this is faster than the 6.1% seen in 2024-25.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation, on the other hand, is expected to grow at 7.8% in 2025-26, faster than the 7.1% seen in 2024-25.

SC disagrees with Justice Varma's claims

The panel comprised Supreme Court judge, Justice Aravind Kumar; the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, M.M. Shrivastava; and senior advocate Vasudeva Acharya. The Speaker's decision came a day after the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha rejected a separate notice of motion submitted in the Upper House.

During the hearing, Mr. Rohatgi argued that the two notices of motion, one to the LS Speaker and the other to the RS Chairman, were given by the MPs on the same day, July 21. He referred to the first proviso of Section 3(2) of the Act, which mandates that in such cases, the inquiry committee had to be "constituted jointly by the Speaker and the Chairman" following the admission of the motions in both Houses. In this case, Mr. Rohatgi submitted that the LS Speaker had no authority to form the committee "unilaterally" on August 12.

"Under the proviso when notices of motion for removal of a judge are given in the two Houses on the same day, both Houses have to admit the motions and the inquiry committee should be formed jointly by the Chairman and the Speaker. The then Rajya Sabha Chairman did not admit the notice of motion," Mr. Rohatgi submitted.

'No bar on Speaker'

Justice Datta, however, asked whether there was any specific prohibition preventing the Speaker from constituting the panel after the rejection of the notice of motion given in the Upper House.

"But where is the bar on the Speaker from constituting a committee if the Rajya Sabha has rejected the motion... Are you saying if one House rejects the motion, it should be rejected in both Houses?" Justice Datta queried.

At this point, Mr. Rohatgi questioned the competency of the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha to reject the notice of motion, purportedly leaving the field open for the Speaker to constitute the inquiry committee. He said Section 2(2) of the statute specifically stated that 'Chairman' meant the 'Chairman of the Council of States'. The power to admit or reject the notice of motion was vested exclusively with the RS Chairman, and no one else, he said. He said the then-Rajya Sabha Chairman, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar, had resigned on July 21, after receiving the notice of motion without formally admitting it.

"If the office of the Chairman was vacant, somebody had to step in," Justice Datta responded.

"But he [Deputy Chairman] steps in only to regulate the House," Mr. Rohatgi submitted.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the respondent in the petition, said there was a difference between the office being 'vacant' and the occupant of the office being 'absent' for a few days. In case of vacancy, the House still has to function, and somebody has to take over the duties of the office of the Chairman.

Five held for attacking police during HC-ordered demolition drive in Delhi

Crowd protesting demolition throws stones at police, injuring several personnel; police have identified 15 more persons from bodycam footage; senior officer says meetings were held with local residents before demolition to prevent violence

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

Damaged structures after a demolition drive conducted by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi in an 'illegal area' near Faiz-e-Elahi Masjid, close to Ramlila Maidan, on Wednesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

In the congested bylanes around Turkman Gate, as the hustle and bustle settled for Tuesday night, a posse of police personnel arrived with barricades and earthmovers to implement the Delhi High Court order directing the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to demolish encroachments around the Faiz-e-Ilahi Mosque.

Forty minutes past midnight, the authorities started the demolition drive, surrounded by a crowd that opposed it and threw stones, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Nidhin Valsan. He said the crowd had broken barricades, and snatched and damaged a megaphone. "Several police officers incurred head injuries and had to get stitches," he said.

Following the incident, the Delhi Police arrested five people and lodged an FIR at the Chandni Mahal police station. A senior officer told *The Hindu* that 15 more people identified from footage captured by body-worn cameras are yet to be arrested.

Officials demolished a dispensary, a guest house and a community hall. A remaining portion of the community hall was scheduled to be razed after the debris were cleared, which continued till late Wednesday evening.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Central range) Madhur Verma said that prior to the demolition, multiple meetings were held with members of the Aman Committee and other local stakeholders to prevent any untoward incident. "The entire area was meticulously divided into nine zones, each placed under the supervision of an officer of the rank of Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police," he said.

According to the police, at least five officers were injured during the altercation and were later shifted to the Lok Nayak Hospital.

According to the FIR accessed by *The Hindu*, constable Sandeep, in his complaint, said police made repeated announcements asking the crowd to disperse, but the group refused. "Police barricading had been put in place, and a crowd of 30 to 35 people had gathered at Turkman Gate, raising slogans against the police administration," the FIR read. He said the crowd "continued to raise slogans, broke barricades and began rioting".

In the subsequent hours, the situation escalated and the crowd started throwing stones at the police, the FIR said. "They obstructed police personnel in the discharge of their official duty, damaged government property, including the megaphone and barricades, and caused injuries to police staff," it read. The police identified the five arrested as Mohd. Kashif, Mohd. Kaif, Areeb, Mohd. Adnan and Saneer, residents of the area.

Centre seeks comments on draft Pesticides Bill

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Agriculture Ministry on Wednesday released the draft Pesticides Management Bill, 2025, seeking public comments on the legislation that aims at replacing the 57-year-old Insecticides Act, 1968, and the Insecticides Rules, 1971, with enhanced penalties for violations. The Ministry has invited feedback from all stakeholders by February 4, 2026, to refine the legislation before it is introduced in Parliament.

The proposed farmer-centric legislation introduces several reform measures.

The Bill incorporates digital methods and technology to streamline processes while imposing stricter controls on spurious pesticides through higher penalties. Key features include mandatory accreditation of testing laboratories to ensure quality pesticides reach farmers, and provisions for compounding of offences with enhanced penalties to be defined by State-level authorities.

Oxford Press apologises over content on Shivaji

Press Trust of India
PUNE

Oxford University Press (OUP) India has issued an apology to Udayanraje Bhosale, 13th descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, over certain "unverified statements" made about the legendary Maratha king in a book published more than two decades ago.

In a public notice that appeared in a newspaper, OUP India acknowledged that some statements contained on pages 31, 33, 34 and 93 of the book "Shivaji: Hindu King in Islamic India", published in 2003, were unverified.

The book, written by American author James Laine, had triggered a row after over 150 activists from Sambhaji Brigade ransacked the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune in January 2004 alleging that it helped the writer, who made 'objectionable' remarks about Shivaji Maharaj.

Will meet Modi in the 'near future', says Netanyahu after phone conversation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, during his visit to India in 2018. AP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he hoped to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi "in the near future", sparking speculation that his visit to India, cancelled in November, could be rescheduled soon.

Making the comment after a call to Mr. Modi on Wednesday, Mr. Netanyahu said the two leaders had discussed strengthening national security for India and Israel. This is the third call between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Modi in four months and they discussed the Gaza peace proposal backed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

"We discussed the strength of India-Israel relations and how we can unleash the boundless potential of this partnership for the benefit of our peoples. I look forward to meeting Prime Minister Modi in the near future to continue these discussions in person," Mr. Netanyahu said in a social media post, without giving details of where and when the meeting would be.

In another post, Mr. Modi said that the two leaders exchanged New Year greetings and discussed ways to "further strengthen the India-Israel Strategic Partnership". "We also exchanged views on the regional situation and reaffirmed our shared resolve to fight terrorism with greater determination," he added.

A press release from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) added that Mr. Netanyahu "briefed" Mr. Modi on the implementation of the Gaza peace plan. "PM Modi reaffirmed India's consistent support for efforts towards a just and durable peace in the region," it added.

India has consistently backed a "two-state solution" to the Israel-Palestine conflict, something Mr. Netanyahu's government opposes.

SC rejects petition seeking probe into CLAT paper leak

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The top court questioned the need for judicial intervention at such a belated stage. PTI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition seeking a court-monitored investigation into the alleged leak of the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT), 2026 question paper on the eve of the examination.

A Bench comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe declined to entertain the plea, noting that the examination process had already concluded.

Addressing advocate Malvika Kapila, appearing for the petitioners, the Bench questioned why the court had not been approached before the declaration of results on December 16, 2025. "You say the paper was leaked on December 6. Why did you wait until December 16 to approach this court? Had the petition been filed before the declaration of results, we would have appreciated it," the Bench observed.

The plea, filed by a group of law aspirants from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, alleged that screen recordings and screenshots of the question paper began circulating on social media platforms around 10.15 p.m. on December 6 – nearly 15 hours before the examination was scheduled to begin. Ms. Kapila submitted that the plea had been filed within a reasonable time and clarified that the petitioners were not seeking a direction to conduct the examination afresh.

Veiled, masked? Bihar jewellers will not let you purchase gold ornaments

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

The federation says that this directive is for everyone, not against any particular community or religion. FILE PHOTO

With prices of precious metals shooting up, jewellery shops in Bihar may for security reasons refuse entry and sale of gold to customers with their faces covered in hijab, naqab, burkha, scarf, mask, helmets, and so on, the All India Jewellers and Gold Federation State chapter said on Wednesday.

"Unless the customers' faces are visible for identification at the time of purchase, their entry into the shop will be restricted," Ashok Kumar Verma, president of the AIJGF chapter, said, adding the decision was "purely driven by security considerations, and does not target any particular community or religious group".

"The federation is not imposing a ban on hijab or burkha but is requesting customers to show their faces while shopping for identification," he said. The rule, he said, "applies equally to men who cover their faces either with scarves or helmets".

"Today, the price of 10 grams of gold is around ₹1.4 lakh, while one kilogram of silver costs ₹2.5 lakh, and the issue arises when people come into shops hiding their faces. They wear full helmets or veils in groups of three or four persons and commit robberies. Lately, several incidents of robbery and theft have been committed by masked men and women wearing a veil. This decision is purely aimed at preventing such crimes," Mr. Verma told presspersons in Patna.

"I have discussed with senior police officials in Patna, who raised no objection to implementing the rule, which many shops in the State have started to follow. Our intention is not discrimination," Mr. Verma said, adding, "Similar measures are being followed in some districts of other States but Bihar is the first to adhere to the directive across the State."

State spokesperson of the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal Ejaz Ahmed objected to the development. "The move is unconstitutional and against India's secular and Constitutional traditions," he said.

SC defers hearing on Sonam Wangchuk's detention by a day

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sonam Wangchuk

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave itself a day's time to enable Justice P.B. Varale, the puisne judge on the Division Bench headed by Justice Aravind Kumar, to read the case records of a challenge launched by Gitanjali J. Angmo against the Centre for detaining her husband and climate activist, Sonam Wangchuk, under the National Security Act.

The case was earlier heard by a Bench of Justices Kumar and N.V. Anjaria. However, the Bench combination changed post the winter vacations, with Justice Varale replacing Justice Anjaria.

Mr. Wangchuk was detained under the National Security Act (NSA), 1980 following violent protests in Leh on September 24. He was detained on September 26 and shifted to the Jodhpur Central Jail in Rajasthan.

Ms. Angmo alleged the Ministry of Home Affairs had nursed "strong reservations" about Mr. Wangchuk's inclusion in the High Powered Committee delegation of Apex Body Leh and Kargil Democratic Alliance formed to hold talks with the government on issues of Statehood and Sixth Schedule safeguards.

She has denied that Mr. Wangchuk used the platform of protest to target the government. She accused the detaining authority of "malicious intent".

"The brazen allegation that Mr. Sonam Wangchuk has acted as chief provocateur in the violent protest that took place on 24 September 2025 is false, malicious and fabricated and entirely contrary to the material on record... On the contrary, Mr. Sonam Wangchuk has made significant contributions in support of national security and the Armed Forces," Ms. Angmo argued.

She has said the complete grounds of detention were shared with Mr. Wangchuk after a "flagrant delay" of 28 days despite his repeated representations to his detainers.

AICC names observers for States ahead of elections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday announced a team of All India Congress Committee observers for poll-bound States.

While D.K. Shivakumar, Bhupesh Baghel and Bandhu Tirkey have been appointed for Assam, Sachin Pilot, Kanhaiya Kumar, Imran Pratapgarhi, and K.J. George are observers for Kerala. Mukul Wasnik, Uttam Kumar Reddy and Qazi Mohammad Nizamuddin have been appointed for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Sudip Roy Barman, Shakeel Ahmad Khan and Prakash Joshi have been named for West Bengal.

All these States are scheduled to have elections in the next few months.

Centre moves to restore govt. in Manipur, holds review meetings

It conducts two security meetings in a week, discusses 'pros and cons' of extending President's Rule, and security deployment in Manipur; Kuki-Zo groups opposed to govt. formation remain firm on demand for separate administration

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Centre is holding talks to restore the popular government in Manipur which will complete a year under President's Rule on February 13, government sources told *The Hindu*.

The Manipur Assembly is in suspended animation.

Over the past one week, two security review meetings were held under Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan. At the meeting with Mr. Shah in Delhi on January 2, in which Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla was present, the "pros and cons" of continuing with President's Rule were discussed but no decision was conveyed, a senior government official said.

The rehabilitation of internally displaced persons and free movement of people from Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities through National Highways were discussed. Over the past one month, around 9,000 displaced people have returned to their homes from relief camps where they had been staying for over two years, another official said.

Next step: Union Minister Amit Shah and Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla were present at a meeting on January 2. FILE PHOTO

On January 5, Mr. Mohan held another meeting where the Director-General of Military Operations was present along with the State's Director-General of Police and Chief Secretary, and the Security Adviser. The deployment of security forces in the State was discussed.

On January 14, BJP MLAs are likely to meet B.L. Santhosh, the party's national general secretary in Guwahati, another official said.

Since there is no provision to extend President's Rule beyond a year without moving a Constitution amendment Bill in Parliament, the government is inclined to exercise all options to restore the government, bringing the Meitei and the Kuki-Zo legislators on the same table, the senior government official said.

On August 5, 2025, Parliament approved the extension of President's Rule in Manipur for another six months till February 13.

"If President's Rule is extended, a Bill will have to be introduced in Parliament. The future course of action will depend on the events over the next few days as several meetings are planned. The attempt is to form the government," the official said.

The attempts are on even as the Kuki-Zo civil society groups have opposed the government formation, insisting on a separate administration instead. The Meitei civil society groups have opposed any move to change the boundaries of the State.

On January 6, the Kuki-Zo Council, a conglomerate of Kuki-Zo-Hmar tribal groups, reiterating its resolution passed on December 30, said that "Kuki-Zo people cannot and shall not participate in the formation of the Government of Manipur under the present circumstances".

"Forming a government without the Kuki-Zo MLAs will be futile. Though no major violence was reported in the past six months, the movement of people from both the communities is affected in valley and hill districts. The government is weighing all options before a decision is taken to form the government," the senior official said.

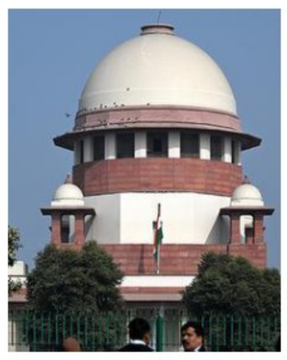
Forward entire audio clip 'linked' to Biren Singh to forensic lab: SC to Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Union government to forward to the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in Gujarat the entire audio clip submitted by a Kuki rights organisation which has alleged that the leaked voice recording points to the role played by former Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in the 2023 ethnic violence.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kumar questioned the government, represented by Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, about the reason for not sending the audio clip in its entirety.

Ms. Bhati said the government had received the 48-minute recording only after the last court hearing in December. The law officer said the clip had not been forthcoming despite enquiries for it.



The court also asked for the submission of NFSU report in a sealed cover. FILE PHOTO

Advocates Prashant Bhushan and Cheryl d'Souza, for Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust (KOHUR), said this case was listed at least 10 times in the past, and the government had known that the transcript of the entire 48-minute recording was placed on record before the court along with the petition.

The Bench asked the petitioner to forward the entire recording to the government, and told the government to forward it to the NFSU for expedited action and submission of report in a sealed cover.

'Only select clips sent'

In December, during the last hearing, the Bench was visibly "disturbed" by an affidavit filed on behalf of the petitioner in November that "only select clippings were sent" for forensics. The NFSU had virtually given a clean chit, saying the leaked audio clip was "tampered with".

Mr. Bhushan had said that probably the full audio clips filed by them were not sent to the NFSU. He had briefed the court that the total audio tapes were of roughly 56 minutes and the petitioners had filed 48 minutes in the court. He said the remaining part of the audio clip identified the whistleblower. Parting with that portion would endanger his life, he said.

KOHUR has sought an independent SIT probe into the contents of the audio clip.

Understand the difference: Rahul takes swipe at PM over remarks by Trump

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday attacked the Union government in the wake of U.S. President Donald Trump's recent remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and tariffs, invoking a contrast with former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's handling of U.S. pressure during the 1971 war.

Mr. Trump, speaking at the House Republicans retreat on Tuesday, had said Mr. Modi was "not that happy with me" over tariffs imposed by Washington on New Delhi, particularly the tariffs that have been linked to India's purchases of Russian oil.

Claiming a close personal relationship with the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Trump said that Mr. Modi had come to meet him and acknowledged that India was now paying "a lot of tariffs", though it had reduced oil imports from Russia "very substantially".

Rahul Gandhi

Reacting to these remarks, Mr. Gandhi posted, "*Farq samjho*, sir *ji*! [Understand the difference, sir]", on X and shared an old video clip of himself in which he had alleged that Mr. Modi had "surrendered" after a call from Mr. Trump during an India-Pakistan military stand-off.

Video clip shared

In the same video, Mr. Gandhi had contrasted this with Indira Gandhi's leadership in 1971, when, he said, she did not budge despite the United States sending its Seventh Fleet. "This is the difference," he remarked.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh also took a dig at the Prime Minister, sharing a clip of Mr. Trump's remarks. "From Namaste Trump to Howdy Modi to Donald *bhai* and now this. What next?" Mr. Ramesh wrote on X.

Mr. Trump had announced 50% tariffs on India, including a 25% levy linked to India's purchases of Russian oil.

He also referred to delays in defence supplies, saying India had been waiting for five years for Apache helicopters. "We're changing it. We're changing it. India ordered 68 Apaches," the U.S. President said.

The Congress had earlier criticised the government over Mr. Trump's assertion that Washington could raise tariffs on India "very quickly", arguing that high-profile events such as "Namaste Trump" and "Howdy Modi", public displays of bonhomie, and social media praise for the U.S. President had delivered little tangible benefit for India.

BJP, Congress spar over Nehru's role in reconstruction of Somnath temple

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress on Wednesday engaged in a sharp war of words over the role of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in the reconstruction and inauguration of the Somnath temple. The ruling party accused Nehru of "appeasement politics", and the Opposition rejected the charge as being based on "lies and half-truths".

At a press conference, BJP MP and spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the former Prime Minister was not merely a political leader but a symbol of an ideology. "It is necessary today to understand how truly terrifying and horrifying that ideology was for India, and how a massive veil was drawn over its true face," he said.

War of words: A file photo of the Somnath temple located in Gujarat. VIJAY SONEJI

Refers to 1951 letter

Referring to a letter written by Nehru in April 1951 to then Pakistan Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, Mr. Trivedi said the former Prime Minister addressed him as "My Dear Nawabzada", and stated that what was happening at the Somnath temple was "wrong" and there should be no malicious propaganda about it. He quoted the letter as saying that claims about temple doors being brought back from Afghanistan were completely false.

The BJP leader pointed out a publication by the previous Congress government – L.S. Bakshi's book on Maharaja Ranjit Singh – which states that after conquering Kabul, Maharaja Ranjit Singh had included a condition in a treaty that the doors of the Somnath temple looted by Mahmud of Ghazni be returned to India.

"Now, the question arises whether Nehru Ji, who was engaged in flattering Liaquat Ali, was speaking the truth, or whether the statement published by a Ministry of the Government of India is true," he said, adding, "What was Pandit Nehru's fear that compelled him to write such a letter?"

The Congress strongly rejected the allegations. Party leader Piyush Babele said the BJP was selectively quoting Nehru's correspondence while ignoring its broader context.

"They are serving lies and half-truths by cherry-picking letters," he said in a video shared by Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh.

Use of govt. funds

Mr. Babele argued that Nehru's consistent position was opposition to the use of government funds for religious purposes, in line with Mahatma Gandhi's views, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's assurances, and constitutional principles.

He referred to multiple letters from 1951 in which Nehru clarified that while he objected to state funding, he did not prevent then President Rajendra Prasad from attending the inauguration in his personal capacity.

The Congress leader also questioned why Presidents Ram Nath Kovind and Droupadi Murmu were not invited to events related to the Ram temple events in Ayodhya, accusing the BJP of political double standards.

Jairam recalls Delcy's 2023 meeting with Dhankhar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With Delcy Rodriguez being sworn in as Venezuela's interim President, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday drew attention to a meeting in August 2023 between Ms. Rodriguez and India's then Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, saying "sadly nothing is heard of [him] these days".

Ms. Rodriguez, who was the Vice-President under Nicolás Maduro, took oath as Venezuela's interim President earlier this week after Mr. Maduro was captured and taken to the United States by forces in a dramatic military operation.

In a post on X, Mr. Ramesh noted that Ms. Rodriguez had visited India multiple times and, like Mr. Maduro, she has been a follower of spiritual leader Satya Sai Baba. He also invoked Venezuelan national hero Simon Bolivar, whose statue stands in Delhi's Chanakyapuri, underscoring Caracas's historical ties with India.

Congress will place legal teams in every district, says Singhvi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The All India Congress Committee's Law, Human Rights and RTI Department will be expanded to the district level across the country as part of a wider organisational strengthening exercise, the Congress announced on Tuesday.

Every administrative district in the country will have a unit of the department comprising at least five active and prominent lawyers, the department's chairman Abhishek Singhvi said.

These district-level teams will coordinate legal activities and handle litigation on behalf of the party.

"They will be our eyes and ears on the ground," Mr. Singhvi said. He added that the move was part of the Congress's expansion programme being driven by the party's senior leadership, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

'Rapid response force'

He said the department would form a "rapid response force" comprising leading lawyers in each State. The decisions were taken at a meet of the department held on Tuesday.

Mr. Singhvi also announced the launch of an internship programme aimed at individuals aged between 21 and 28 who are not currently associated with the Congress.

SIR hearing notice issued to Nobel laureate Amartya Sen

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Economist and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has been served a hearing notice by the Election Commission in connection with the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

The notice states that the age difference between Professor Sen and his parents is less than 15 years and that a hearing will be held at his residence in Birbhum on January 16.

Professor Sen is a voter in the Bolpur Assembly segment in Birbhum.

On Wednesday morning, the booth-level officer of the ward where Professor Sen is enrolled visited his residence, Pratichi, in Santiniketan and served the notice. Professor Sen is currently not in India.

Amartya Sen

"As per your declaration, the age difference between you and your parents is less than 15 years, which is not generally expected and this needs to be clarified through documentation in light of the voter list of the last SIR," the notice, written in Bengali, said.

The notice further stated that Professor Sen was requested to appear before the undersigned on January 16, at noon, "at your residence along with the original documents prescribed by the Election Commission of India (which are attached to this notice and mentioned in the information sheet at the back of the counting form), for the maintenance of your name in the final electoral roll".

Similar notice to others

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday said it had come to his notice that Professor Sen, who has brought global recognition to the country, had been served a hearing notice under the SIR. He said similar notices had been issued to Bengali actor Dev and cricketer Mohammed Shami.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION
LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE (LPSC)
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
VALIAMALA P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA
Ph: 0471 – 256 7445/ 7326/ 7577 e-mail: contracts_cmg@lpsc.gov.in

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, online **EPC tenders** are invited through e-tendering for the following work:

Description	Details
Title of work	Planning, Design and Construction of NFAT Facility for NGLV at LPSC, ISRO, Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala (Civil, Electrical, AC, Mechanical and allied works) in EPC Mode-1
E-NIT No. and Date	LPSC-V/CMD/CS/01/1145/TE-023/2025-26 dated 05.01.2026
Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 8075 Lakh
Period of completion	Twenty (20) months
Earnest money deposit (EMD)	₹ 90,75,000/- (Rupees Ninety lakh and seventy five thousand)
Period during which the tender document can be requested.	From: 17.30 hrs on 08.01.2026 To: 23.30 hrs on 04.02.2026
Period during which the tender documents can be downloaded.	From: 17.31 hrs on 08.01.2026 To: 23.59 hrs on 04.02.2026
Bid Clarifications	From: 18.00 hrs on 08.01.2026 To: 09.00 hrs on 16.02.2026
Reply to Bid Clarifications	Upto 17.00 hrs on 18.02.2026
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Upto 14.30 hrs on 02.03.2026
Due date and time of opening of tenders	15.00 hrs on 02.03.2026

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi - English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html, https://www.lpsc.gov.in/tender.html and tender free view at https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro

Sd/- Head, CMD/LPSC (V)

INBRIEF

Maharashtra Congress leader dies of stab wounds in Akola

Maharashtra Congress vice-president Hidayatullah Patel, who was stabbed at a mosque in Akola district, died of injuries during treatment on Wednesday morning, the police said. The alleged attacker, who is the main accused, has been arrested, while five more persons have been named as suspects in the first information report (FIR), they said. An IPS-rank officer will probe the murder case, said District Superintendent of Police Archit Chandak. Mr. Patel, 66, was attacked with a sharp weapon by the main accused, Ubed Khan Kalu Khan, alias Razik Khan Patel, 22, over an old enmity at around 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the police said. PTI

Rogue elephant kills 13 in two days in Jharkhand villages

An elephant killed 13 people in two days in separate attacks in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, creating panic in the region, a senior forest official said on Wednesday. Four others were also injured in the attack, Chaibasa Divisional Forest Officer Aditya Narayan told *PTI*. The tusker, which had attacked several people in the last few days, entered the Noamundi and Hatgamariah police station areas late on Tuesday and trampled the six people to death, he said. The same pachyderm claimed the lives of seven people in the Kolhan region on the previous day, he added. The official said that forest officials with experts have been deployed. PTI

Norms issued to compound minor drug violations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a bid to make compliance easier, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has released guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) related to the compounding of offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics (Compounding of Offences) Rules, 2025, which will be a guide to drug manufacturing companies and individuals on how to settle offences under the relevant provisions of the regulation under the Compounding Authority.

"Any stakeholder desirous of applying for compounding of offences under the Rules may submit the application in the prescribed form in physical copy along with advance copy through email as specified under Rule 4 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Compounding of Offences) Rules, 2025, to the Compounding Authority," the CDSCO said.

A senior Health official explained that the new rules exempt pharma firms from appearing in court in case of "certain minor contraventions" and allow them to seek the provision of paying a monetary penalty instead, subject to conditions.

Census first phase to be held from April 1 to Sept. 30 this year

The houselisting phase will be conducted in each State over a 30-day period; second phase of the count will be carried out in February 2027

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The first phase of Census 2027, the houselisting operations (HLO) phase, will be conducted from April 1 to September 30 across all States and Union Territories, the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India said in a notification on Wednesday.

This phase will be conducted in each State over a 30-day period, with the specific dates to be notified by the States.

The self-enumeration option will be available 15 days before the start of the phase.

"The houselisting operations of the Census of India 2027 shall take place between 1st April, 2026 and 30th September, 2026 in all States and Union territories in India during the period of thirty days specified by each State and Union territory. There shall also be an option for self enumeration which shall be conducted in fifteen days' time period just before the start of house to house houselisting operations of thirty days," Census Commissioner Mritunjay Kumar Narayan said in a Gazette notification.

The pre-test for the first phase of the Census was held from November 10 to 30 in select areas across the country. FILE PHOTO

This will be the first digital Census and the first to enumerate caste in Independent India.

Household queries

The second phase of the Census is the population enumeration phase in February 2027.

Caste identities will be enumerated during this phase.

The pre-test or the preparatory exercise for the first phase of the Census was held from November 10 to 30 last year in select areas across the country. It had sought household responses to 35 questions, including the composition of the floor and roof of the house, main cereal consumed, source of drinking water and cooking fuel, and the number of married couples in the house.

About 30 lakh field functionaries – including enumerators, supervisors, master trainers, charge officers, and Principal/District Census Officers – will be deployed for data collection, and supervision of Census operations.

X tells IT Ministry it is 'in compliance' with Indian law

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Ministry says X has not shared specific details, and that it will stay in touch with X Corp.

X Corp., which runs the social media platform X, has submitted a written response to the Union government's notice to the firm on the rampant generation of non-consensual sexual content by its Grok artificial intelligence chatbot, a senior official said on Wednesday.

The firm insisted that it was "in compliance" with Indian law, the official said.

Spokespersons of X and the IT Ministry did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

"They have not given us specifics, so we're going to get down to specifics," the official said, describing the social media firm's response. "[They say] we've taken down content, we've blocked content. But we want more specifics, so we'll be in communication with them ... They're saying that they'll comply with Indian law."

In a letter on January 2, the IT Ministry had taken note of Grok "being misused by users to create fake accounts to host, generate, publish or share obscene images or videos of women in a derogatory or vulgar manner in order to indecently denigrate them". The letter demanded that the behaviour stop, and that a detailed technical audit be performed on Grok's systems, and that the result of that audit be shared with the IT Ministry. A 72-hour deadline was extended to 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

It is unclear if xAI, which develops Grok and is a separate subsidiary under X Corp., will institute further safeguards. The official did not describe any specific commitment to that end from X.

Elon Musk, X's owner, has frequently vaunted the relative lack of safeguards and limits on Grok's outputs, emphasising it as a key differentiator from services such as ChatGPT and Google's Gemini. Instead, Mr. Musk said, "Anyone using Grok to make illegal content will suffer the same consequences as if they upload illegal content." (xAI's media contact email address automatically returns a response stating that "Legacy Media Lies" to any enquiry.)

Congress flags bid to 'privatise forest management' after Ministry circular

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday alleged that amendments made to the Forest (Conservation) Act in 2023 had opened the door for the privatisation of forest management, days after the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change changed terms and conditions for the assignment of forest land on lease.

The Congress has said that the move will facilitate leasing of forest land to private entities for plantations. FILE PHOTO

Congress general secretary and former Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh took to X to condemn the recent changes, alleging the move will facilitate leasing of forest land to private entities. "In August 2023, the Modi Government had bulldozed amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 through Parliament. Apart from renaming this law as the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, these amendments had introduced far-reaching changes in the legal regime for the governance of forests in the country," Mr. Ramesh said. He further said it was pointed out at the time that the amendments had opened the door for the privatisation of forest management.

"This is exactly what has happened – as evidenced from the circular issued by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change on Jan 2, 2026," he added.

As per the circular issued by the Ministry, the amendments in the Forest (Conservation) Act in 2023 were based on recommendations of the Advisory Committee. The new amendments assisted natural regeneration, including afforestation and plantation, for purposes mutually agreed between the States/Union Territories and government and non-government entities.

The circular allowed the States to devise an appropriate framework "for the utilisation of such plantations and for revenue-sharing thereof, on a case-to-case basis".

"Activities undertaken in accordance with the provisions of an approved Working Plan/Management Plan, applicable in such cases and under the supervision of the State Forest Department shall be deemed to constitute forestry activities and hence the requirements of Compensatory Afforestation and payment of Net Present Value shall not be applicable to such activities," the circular read.

Top court says presence of strays in public institutions poses a 'danger'

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that the presence of stray dogs on the premises of public institutions posed a "danger", even as animal welfare groups contended that its November 7 order directing their removal ran contrary to the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

The Bench said that a recent spike in dog-bite incidents prompted the need to make public institutions 'dog-free'. FILE PHOTO

A three-judge Bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and N.V. Anjaria said that a recent spike in dog-bite incidents highlighted the need to ensure that high-footfall public institutions were made "dog-free". The Bench also flagged the failure of municipal authorities to effectively implement the ABC Rules and comply with its earlier directives.

"As far as institutions are concerned, they are not streets. Why do you need dogs on court premises, schools?.... It is not only the dog bites but also the roaming of stray animals on roads that are proving dangerous and causing accidents. No one knows which dog is in what mood in the morning," the Bench said.

Justice Mehta further pointed out that two judges of the Rajasthan High Court had met with accidents in the past 20 days, and one of the judges was still suffering from spinal injuries. "It's a serious issue," he told lawyers appearing in the matter.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for an animal welfare organisation, however, contended that isolated incidents could not justify the *en masse* capture and removal of stray dogs, particularly when such measures were not supported by scientific methodology accepted worldwide for reducing animal-human conflict.

"First of all, this is not an adversarial issue, and we are here as dog lovers. If one tiger is a man-eater, we don't kill all tigers. We must make sure that sterilisation takes place, and the population must come down," he said.

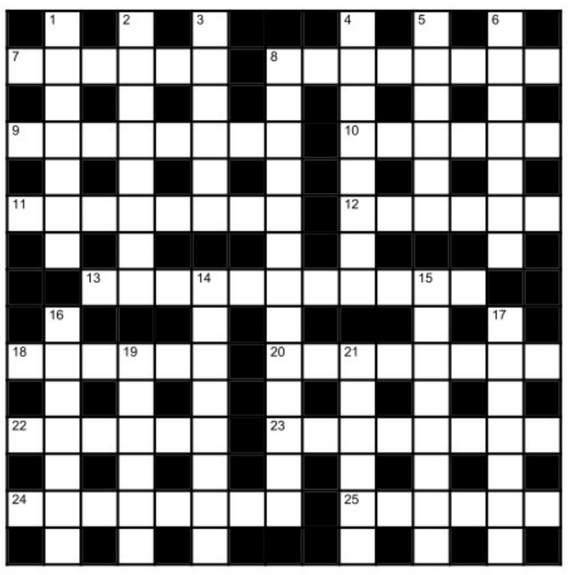
The observations were made during the top court's ongoing *suo motu* proceedings aimed at framing a national framework for stray dog management and ensuring compliance with existing statutory regulations.

TH CROSSWORD + 14686

(set by Pixie Dust)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Difficult and incorrigible in conversation (6)
8 Nag, i.e in humour? (8)
9 Sybarite professor involved in larceny (8)
10 Fate exposed Nora, Adam & Mina (6)
11 Restore extremely rare electronic device (8)
12 A company is basically monitoring prejudice (6)
13 So, this annihilator unfortunately took fishes. Sad! (4,2,5)
18 Faceless pitcher follows nationalist for a bite (6)
20 One who just made a veiled promise? (8)
22 Petty snub (6)
23 Intrude bird cycling around a croc in confusion (8)
24 Hits back on curt ones angrily (8)
25 Throwing son out in climax (6)

Down

1 At home greet amazing figure (7)
2 Boil & stir bananas and cones (8)
3 Countless parts of humid, airy motors capsizing (6)
4 Recommend Bill's chartered accountant to be admitted by referendum (8)
5 Some swooned getting nervous (2,4)
6 Opposing saga in stereotypical packaging (7)
8 Repeatedly used fibre stung one apt to drop things (13)
14 Climber's second little brew packs bit of punch (8)
15 Your archaic designer uplifted small hormone producers (8)
16 Prophet of Doom Spooner declares, "Jack's partner's shrinking!" (7)
17 Fall of French essence (7)
19 Kicks off business enterprises, global investments & networking schemes from the beginning (6)
21 Wait! Cake ends bitten off evenly? Sinful! (6)

SUDOKU

8	6			5				
		5			9		6	3
	4	9	7					
				4			3	1
			3		1			
5	3			2				
					6	3	7	
2	1		8			5		
				7			1	8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6755 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	7	9	1	2	6	4	8	3
4	6	2	3	8	7	1	5	9
1	8	3	9	4	5	7	6	2
2	3	1	4	9	8	6	7	5
8	9	5	6	7	1	2	3	4
7	4	6	2	5	3	9	1	8
3	2	7	8	1	9	5	4	6
6	5	4	7	3	2	8	9	1
9	1	8	5	6	4	3	2	7

FAITH

Realisation of God

Some may ask who created the world and human beings. Scriptures declare that God is the Creator, though He is not visible to our physical eyes. Therefore, we must accept the truths revealed by elders, the Sastras, and Acharyas. One should not reject the existence of the Creator merely because He is not perceptible to ordinary senses, nor should one argue against Him using limited human logic.

Acharya Ramanuja declares that the realisation of God and the experience of the Divine are possible only through the authority of the Sastras. In his work "Sri Bhashyam", he refers to *Sastra-yonitvat*, emphasising that the Sastras alone are the valid means to know that which is beyond the reach of our senses and intellect.

Dr. Venkatesh said in a discourse that the rishis and azhwars are spiritual scientists. Through the subtle microscope of "tapas", they conducted profound inner research and revealed their realisations in the form of the Sastras and the Divya Prabandham. We, on the other hand, are like small children in the realm of spirituality. By learning, reflecting, and practising more and more with proper guidance, we gradually reach a state in which we can realise God and experience His Divinity. Though the physical eyes cannot perceive God, He can be realised and experienced inwardly through pure insight or wisdom, and a heart sanctified by devotion.

Our Acharyas, through their illumined intellect and profound spirituality, have experienced the supreme divine bliss. When we walk in their footsteps with faith and discipline, we are also blessed to partake of that very same bliss.

INBRIEF

Gold drops as traders reassess U.S.-Venezuela relations

Gold prices fell on Wednesday as a stronger dollar and investors reassessing the recent developments in the U.S.-Venezuela situation weighed on the metal. Spot gold dropped 0.8% to $4,461.51 per ounce after briefly touching a more than one-week high earlier in the session. Bullion had hit a record high of $4,549.71 on December 26. U.S. gold futures for February delivery were down 0.5% at $4,471.30. REUTERS

Infosys partners with AWS for enterprise adoption of Gen AI

India's second-largest IT services company Infosys on Wednesday announced a strategic partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS), Amazon's cloud unit, to drive enterprise adoption of generative artificial intelligence (AI). The collaboration brings together Infosys Topaz and Amazon Q Developer to enhance Infosys' internal operations and drive innovation for clients in sectors including manufacturing, financial services and consumer goods. PTI

India scaled 54.51 GW wind energy capacity in 2025

India added 6.34 gigawatts (GW)-worth wind energy capacity in the calendar year 2025 with the total capacity in the country scaling 54.51 GW at the end of the year, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi informed on Wednesday. Notably, the capacity added in 2025 is approximately 85.4% higher than the capacity added in the preceding calendar year. India installed 3.42 GW worth capacity in 2024. It had closed 2024 with 48.16 GW wind capacity.

Carbon intensity tied to EVs' overall environmental benefits

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

While electric vehicles (EVs) offer zero emissions, the carbon intensity of electricity generation plays a decisive role in determining the overall environmental benefit of EVs, Managing Director of State-owned Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL) Kamal Kishore Chatiwal said on Wednesday. He was also referring to studies conducted by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and International Energy Agency (IEA).

Speaking at the launch of the study on 'Comparative Assessment of Vehicular Fuels in India's Green Energy Transition' of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and IGL, Mahanagar Gas Ltd., GAIL Gas, among others, Mr. Chatiwal emphasised, "Unless we green that, then the overall benefit may not accrue."

Separately in his address, with respect to electric vehicular technology, Mr. Chatiwal observed that electrifying vehicles with lower capacity is easy.

"As capacity increases, it becomes more complex and economically challenging to match other alternative fuels," he elaborated, whilst urging the researchers to look at the "economic angle" of the paradigm.

"In India, the economic angle will always be very important," he stated.

EV retail sales rose 16.37% YoY on 'strong adoption'

In 2025, a total number of 22,70,107 EV units were retailed as compared with 19,50,727 units retailed in 2024, data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association showed

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Electric vehicle (EV) retail sales grew double-digit in calendar year 2025 (CY25) backed by strong adoption.

In 2025, a total number of 22,70,107 EV units were retailed compared with 19,50,727 units retailed in 2024, up 16.37%, according to data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) on Wednesday.

A total of 12.80 lakh electric two-wheelers were retailed in CY25, up 11.36% YoY). This accounted for 6.3% of the total two-wheelers sold during the year. Electric passenger vehicles grew sharply to 1,76,817 units, up 77.04% YoY, taking the EV share in total PV sales to 4% from 2.4% last year, data showed. The most decisive transformation continues to be in three-wheelers, where EVs now command 60.9% share, with EV 3W retails at 7,97,733 units, up 15.39% YoY, a strong endorsement of EV economics in last-mile mobility, FADA said in a statement.

Shifting gears: A total of 12.80 lakh electric two-wheelers were retailed in CY25, a year-on-year increase of 11.36%. G.N. RAO

Momentum was also visible in commercial vehicles with the electric CV segment clocking retail sales of 15,606 units, up 54.2% YoY. The share of EVs in this segment grew to 1.55%.

"CY25 clearly reinforces that India's electrification journey is no longer a pilot, it is scaling, segment by segment," said FADA president C.S. Vigneshwar.

"This transition is being powered by improving product choices and total cost of ownership benefits, and it underlines the need for a coordinated push on charging infra and policy continuity," he said.

IndiGo receives first delivery of A321 XLR

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

IndiGo on Wednesday took the delivery of first of the 40 A321 XLRs on order.

The longest narrow-body aircraft will allow the airline to fly further than its current fleet of A320 aircraft allows, though it has started flying to four European destinations with Boeing 787 aircraft borrowed from Norse Atlantic and also has Boeing 777 borrowed (or wet-leased) from Turkish Airlines used to fly to Istanbul.

Nine A321 XLRs will be inducted in CY26 and deployed on existing routes such as Denpasar and Istanbul. Thereafter new routes in East Asia and Europe will be launched. IndiGo is also required to surrender Turkish wet-leased (where aircraft and crew are leased) aircraft, which are used to fly to Istanbul, as per a DGCA directive.

Govt. seeks fare data as part of IndiGo scrutiny

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has written to airlines asking for average fares on each route they operated on, for economy and premium economy seats, over the period December 1-15, according to a *Reuters* review of a January 1 government e-mail to IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express, SpiceJet and Akasa.

Pilot shortages at IndiGo, which dominates India's aviation market with a 65% share, forced it to cancel about 4,500 flights last month, stranding thousands of passengers and disrupting air travel nationwide.

Fares of certain airlines surged during the crisis, prompting the government to impose temporary caps.

The CCI in December said it was proceeding against IndiGo to assess whether it had abused its market position.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,961	-0.12
US Dollar	89.87	0.34
Gold	1,41,400	-0.07
Brent oil	60.25	-2.25

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2274.10	15.00
Adani Ports	1465.30	-7.90
Apollo Hosp	7447.50	99.50
Asian Paints	2809.40	-36.40
Axis Bank	1295.50	1.70
Bajaj Auto	9789.50	128.50
Bajaj Finserv	2031.90	-12.70
Bajaj Finance	968.80	-8.55
Bharat Elec	415.65	2.55
Bharti Airtel	2084.20	-21.10
Cipla	1467.90	-62.90
Coal India	431.65	4.60
Dr Reddys Lab	1242.80	-13.40
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7582.50	60.00
Eternal Ltd.	280.95	1.90
Grasim Ind	2837.10	-28.20
HCL Tech	1647.70	31.40
HDFC Bank	949.05	-13.15
HDFC Life	772.35	-5.50
Hindalco	938.45	-3.80
Hind Unilever	2399.40	-25.30
ICICI Bank	1427.70	16.50
IntGlobeAvi	4951.00	-51.50
Infosys	1639.00	26.80
ITC	341.25	-1.20
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	303.50	4.95
JSW Steel	1189.80	13.50
Kotak Bank	2144.00	-2.40
L&T	4157.00	16.40
M&M	3748.80	-36.80
Maruti Suzuki	16809.00	-483.00
Max Healthcare	1034.70	-16.90
NestleIndia	1314.80	-5.10
NTPC	348.85	-1.95
ONGC	239.06	-2.83
PowerGrid Corp	264.10	-4.45
Reliance Ind	1504.20	-3.40
SBI Life	2070.80	-25.00
State Bank	1007.15	-11.75
Shriram Finance Ltd.	995.85	-6.80
Sun Pharma	1782.60	22.40
TataConsumerProduct	1212.60	2.20
Tata Steel	183.80	-2.40
TCS	3295.60	39.80
Tech Mahindra	1625.20	23.40
Titan	4273.20	161.40
Tata Motors PV	363.35	-5.55
Trent Ltd.	4060.50	12.90
UltraTech Cement	12184.00	-20.00
Wipro	270.80	5.20

CMS bags ₹1,000 cr. ATM deal from SBI

Cash logistics-focused CMS Info Systems on Wednesday said it has bagged a ₹1,000-crore deal from SBI to look after 5,000 automated teller machines (ATMs) for SBI. PTI

ED attaches ₹400 crore assets in Jaypee group homebuyers' case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached immovable assets with a current market value of about ₹400 crore in connection with a probe involving Jaypee Infratech Limited (JIL), Jayprakash Associates Limited (JAL) and associated entities, over the alleged misappropriation of funds collected from homebuyers for the Jaypee Wishtown and Jaypee Greens projects.

The agency said the attached properties belong to Jaiprakash Sewa Sanstha and Page 3 Buildtech Private Limited.

The ED investigation against the Jaypee group is based on several first information reports registered by the police in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, following complaints filed by homebuyers of the Jaypee Wishtown and Jaypee Greens projects, alleging criminal conspiracy, cheating and criminal breach of trust against JIL and JAL and their promoters and directors, including Manoj Gaur.

The attached properties belong to Jaiprakash Sewa Sanstha and Page 3 Buildtech Pvt. Ltd.

"It has been alleged that the funds collected from thousands of homebuyers for construction and completion of residential projects were diverted for purposes other than construction, leaving the homebuyers defrauded and their projects incomplete," the ED said.

According to the agency, of about ₹14,599 crore collected by JAL and JIL from more than 25,000 homebuyers, as per claims admitted by the National Company Law Tribunal, substantial amounts were diverted for non-construction purposes and siphoned off to related group entities, including Jaypee Sewa Sansthan (JSS), Jaypee Healthcare Limited (JHL), and Jaypee Sports International Limited (JSIL).

Delhi-NCR weathers air pollution to buy homes

Ashokamithran T.
NEW DELHI

In the luxury category (₹20 crore to ₹50 crore), Delhi garnered 17% of home sales

The Delhi-National Capital region was the most preferred location to buy homes that cost between ₹2 crore to ₹20 crore in the second half of calendar year 2025, despite the air pollution crisis in the capital.

About 32% of the total homes that cost ₹2 crore to ₹5 crore sold in India were in NCR, according to the data from a Knight Frank report. This was despite a marginal dip in sales to 18,887 units on a year-on-year basis.

The share of Delhi in total sales increased in the higher price segments. Six out of every 10 homes which belonged to the ₹5 crore to ₹10 crore category were sold in NCR. Similarly, 62% of the homes worth ₹10 crore to ₹20 crore were sold in Delhi.

In the luxury category (₹20 crore to ₹50 crore), Delhi garnered 17% of home sales, but the segment was dominated by Mumbai with 66% of total sales. In the luxury segment, which Knight Frank considers to be more than ₹50 crore, 173 homes were sold in NCR and 56 in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

Thyssenkrupp weighs phased sale of TKSE to Jindal

Reuters

Germany's Thyssenkrupp could sell its steel division to India's Jindal Steel International in several steps, four people familiar with the talks said, as the two sides try to strike a deal for the complex business.

Jindal Steel International has been conducting due diligence on Thyssenkrupp Steel Europe (TKSE) since October after making an indicative bid for Europe's second-largest steelmaker.

The deal is key for Thyssenkrupp as the submarines-to-car parts group seeks to become leaner and more focused.

APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj an Autonomous organization under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is country's apex organisation for undertaking training and research in various aspects of Rural Development. NIRD&PR invites applications for the following post on deputation basis:

Name of the Post	Pay Matrix Level	Age limit	No. of Posts
Director (Finance)	Pay Level-13 in 7th CPC (Corresponding PB-4 with Grade Pay Rs.8700/- in 6th CPC)	56 years	1

For Job Profile, eligibility Criteria, remuneration and submission of application, please visit: **http://career.nirdpr.in/**
Last date for submission of online application is 07.02.2026.

Advt.No.34/2025
(No. NIRDPR/Admn/2025/62)

Sd/-
Assistant Director Administration (Section-I)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Govt. of India proposes to engage the services of suitable candidates for various positions on contract basis under the Project Management Agency (PMA) of the National Resource Organization (NRO), MoRD. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), NIRDPR invites online applications for below mentioned contractual positions to be placed in MoRD, New Delhi:

Sl. No	Name of the Position	No. of Positions	Remuneration
1	Project Manager	1	Rs. 1,50,000/- pm
2	Assistant Project Manager	2	Rs. 1,20,000/- pm
3	Thematic Expert (MIS)	1	Rs. 1,00,000/- pm

The contract duration is up to 31.03.2026 and may be extended subject to the extension of the scheme beyond 31.03.2026.
For Job Profile, Eligibility Criteria, online submission of application and other details please visit: **http://career.nirdpr.in/**
Last date for submission of online application is **22/01/2026.**

Advt.No.31/2025
File No: File No: NIRDPR/DDU-GKY/NRO/070/HR/2018-19-Part(1)
Comp.no. 8836

Sd/-
Assistant Director Administration (Section-I)

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
"Expression of Interest (EoI)"
Ref. EoI No: APTRANSCO/TELECOM&IT/JV-EOI-02/2026

APTRANSCO invites applications from the eligible and reputed Telecom Service Providers for forming a Joint Venture (JV) / Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for Bandwidth Business. Detailed EoI document available in **www.aptransco.gov.in** from 08.01.2026 at 11:00 Hrs, Ph no.9440811006, 9440817073.

RO No: GMCC/APTRANSCO/11/26

Sd/- Chief Engineer/Telecom & IT
APTRANSCO, Vidyut Soudha, Vijayawada.

DIRECTOR WORKS (EO)
Rajasthan University Of Veterinary & Animal Science, Bikaner

क्रमांक : F( )/DW(EO)/RAJUVAS/2025-26/923 - 933 दिनांक :- 05/01/2026

निविदा सूचना संख्या 08 वर्ष 2025-2026

राजस्थान पशु चिकित्सा एवं पशु विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय, बीकानेर की ओर से विश्वविद्यालय में विभिन्न स्थानों पर निर्माण कार्यों के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में, इस विश्वविद्यालय में एवं अन्य विश्वविद्यालयों में, राज्य सरकार एवं राज्य सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों तथा केन्द्र सरकार व केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों, जो कि राज्य सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के समकक्ष हो, पंजीकृत संवेदको से ई–टेन्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ऑनलाईन निविदा प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से सम्बधित विवरण वेब साईट **www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in/tenders.asp, www.rajuvas.org, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** व **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है। **UBN No. : VAU2526WLOB00094**

राज.संवाद/सी/25/17203

भू-सम्पदा अधिकारी

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
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Roc.No. TTD-95021(31)/15/2025-Chief Editor Dt:05.01.2026

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3. Associate Professor of Neurology	2 POSTS [OBC-1, UR-1]
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4. Assistant Professor of Neurology	1 POST [EWS]
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5A. Assistant Professor of Neuroanaesthesia & Neurocritical Care (Lower Cadre for Associate Professor of Neuroanaesthesia & Neurocritical Care)	1 POST [OBC]
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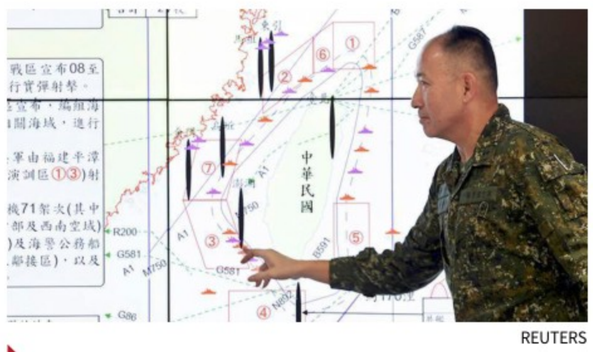
For further details, please visit the **"Recruitment and Notifications" section on the NIMHANS website http://www.nimhans.ac.in.**

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

TAIPEI

China's war games to undermine global support for island: Taiwan



REUTERS

China's war game exercises around Taiwan last week, called "Justice Mission 2025," were part of a campaign to counter growing international support for the island and an attempt to divert attention away from Beijing's economic troubles, Taiwan's top security agency said on Wednesday. REUTERS

WASHINGTON

U.S. seizes Russia-linked oil tanker after chasing it to North Atlantic

AFP

The United States on Wednesday seized a Russia-linked oil tanker in the North Atlantic after chasing it from Venezuela's coast, despite Russian navy escort. Washington calls it part of a shadow fleet violating sanctions. Moscow criticised the seizure. The formerly *Bella-1*, now *Marinera*, was, however, deemed stateless by U.S. AFP

ALEPPO

New clashes between Syrian forces, Kurdish fighters erupt in Aleppo

REUTERS

The deadliest clashes so far broke out on Tuesday between Syrian government forces and Kurdish fighters in a contested area of the northern city of Aleppo, as efforts to merge the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) with the national army have shown little progress. *SANA* said a soldier was killed in an SDF attack. AP

ADEN

Yemen's anti-Houthi council expels leader of separatist movement

VIA REUTERS

A Yemeni council fighting Houthi militants expelled separatist leader Aidarous al-Zubaidi for treason after he reportedly declined to travel to Saudi Arabia for talks. Saudi-Emirati tensions deepened as Saudi air strikes hit UAE-backed STC forces, escalating southern Yemen's conflict and exposing coalition fractures. AP

Venezuela will 'turn over' up to 50 mn barrels of oil to U.S.: Trump

Delcy Rodríguez asserts Venezuelan sovereignty with no foreign governance while showing potential willingness to cooperate on U.S. demands; no details available on what the South American nation receives in return for the oil supply

Stanly Johny

U.S. President Donald Trump has claimed that Venezuela's interim government would send 30 to 50 million barrels of oil to the United States, after Washington invaded the oil-rich South American country on January 3 and captured its President, Nicolas Maduro.

"I am pleased to announce that the Interim Authorities in Venezuela will be turning over between 30 and 50 million barrels of high quality, sanctioned oil, to the United States of America," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post on Tuesday.

Protesters hold signs during a demonstration against U.S. military action in Venezuela, in Washington DC on Tuesday. AFP

After capturing Mr. Maduro in a night-time attack, which according to American media killed at least 75 people, including 32 Cubans, Mr. Trump had said the U.S. would "run" Venezuela and that American oil companies would return to the country and make investments. Later, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the U.S. was not seeking to "govern" Venezuela but would enforce changes through economic sanctions and a naval quarantine, which is currently in place on oil tankers going in and coming out of Venezuela.

In Tuesday's post, Mr. Trump said the oil sent by Venezuela would be sold at the market price and the proceeds would be controlled by him "to ensure it is used to benefit the people of Venezuela and the United States". But he did not say what would Venezuela would get in return or provide a timeline for shipping the oil.

Meanwhile, Venezuela's interim leader Delcy Rodriguez insisted that no foreign power was governing her country, according to an *AFP* report.

Ms. Rodriguez has given mixed signals about how much she is prepared to cooperate with Mr. Trump, at times sounding conciliatory, at others defiant.

Speaking three days after U.S. attack, Ms. Rodriguez said: "The government of Venezuela is in charge in our country, and no-one else." "There is no foreign agent governing Venezuela."

Mr. Trump, however, insists Washington is now "in charge" of the Caribbean country but has said he is prepared to work with Ms. Rodriguez – provided she submits to his demand for access to oil reserves.

'Trump actively discussing the purchase of Greenland'

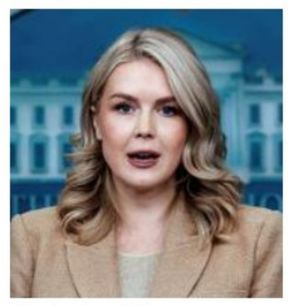
Associated Press
COPENHAGEN

U.S. President Donald Trump has "actively discussed" the purchase of Greenland with his team, the White House said on Wednesday, saying he preferred diplomacy but would not rule out military action.

"That's something that's currently being actively discussed by the President and his national security team," Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said when asked about a possible U.S. offer to buy the territory from Denmark.

"His team is currently talking about what a potential purchase would look like."

Ms. Leavitt reiterated that Mr. Trump believes acquiring Greenland would be in the interest of U.S. national security.



Karoline Leavitt

"He views it in the best interest of the United States to deter Russian and Chinese aggression in the Arctic region. And so that's why his team is currently talking about what a potential purchase would look like."

Asked why Mr. Trump would not rule out military action against a fellow NATO member, Ms. Leavitt replied: "That's not something this President does. All options are always on the table for President Trump."

"But I will just say, the President's first option, always, has been diplomacy."

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said separately on Wednesday that he planned to meet next week with Denmark, which requested talks after Mr. Trump's threats to Greenland.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen warned earlier this week that a U.S. takeover would amount to the end of the NATO military alliance.

The leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom joined Ms. Frederiksen in a statement on Tuesday reaffirming that the mineral-rich island "belongs to its people".

UN urges Israel to end 'apartheid' against West Bank residents

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The United Nations on Wednesday said decades-long discrimination and segregation of Palestinians by Israel in the West Bank were intensifying, and called on the country to end its "apartheid system".

In a new report, slammed by Israel, the UN rights office said "systematic discrimination" against Palestinians across the occupied Palestinian territories had "drastically deteriorated" in recent years.

"There is a systematic asphyxiation of the rights of Palestinians in the West Bank," UN rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement.

"Whether accessing water, school, rushing to hospital, visiting family or friends, or harvesting olives – every aspect of life for Palestinians in the West Bank is controlled and curtailed by Israel's discriminatory laws, policies and practices," he added.

Inquilab Mancha rejects Hadi murder chargesheet and warns of escalation

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Slain Bangladeshi student leader Sharif Osman Hadi's party has rejected the police chargesheet in his murder case and accused the state machinery of being involved in the killing.

Inquilab Mancha on Tuesday also warned that those who "have shed blood" may be forced to "take blood as well" if justice is not ensured, Bengali daily *Prothom Alo* reported on Wednesday.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police's (DMP) Detective Branch on Tuesday pressed formal charges against 17 people, including prime suspect Faisal Karim Masud, in connection with the murder and said Hadi was killed due to "political vengeance" at the behest of Awami League-nominated ward councillor Taizul Islam Chowdhury Bappi.

Inquilab Mancha claims that an entire 'criminal syndicate', as well as the 'state machinery', was involved in the killing. AP

Inquilab Mancha member secretary Abdullah al Jaber said "even a lunatic would not believe" the claim that Hadi was murdered merely on the instructions of a ward councillor, asserting that the party does not accept the chargesheet submitted by police.

He claimed that an entire "criminal syndicate", as well as the "state machinery", was involved in the killing.

Hadi was shot in the head on December 12.

Iran Army threatens preemptive attack over Trump remarks

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran's Army chief threatened preemptive military action on Wednesday over the "rhetoric" targeting the Islamic Republic, likely referring to U.S. President Donald Trump's warning that if Tehran "violently kills peaceful protesters," America "will come to their rescue".

The comments by Maj. Gen. Amir Hatami come as Iran tries to respond to what it sees as a dual threat posed by Israel and the United States, as well as the protests sparked by its economic woes that have grown into a direct challenge to its theocracy.

"The Islamic Republic considers the intensification of such rhetoric against the Iranian nation as a threat and will not leave its continuation without a response," Gen. Hatami said.

The U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency offered the latest toll of 36 for the demonstrations.

Sport

Anand showcases his class, in joint lead

TATA STEEL CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
KOLKATA

He was the 'Lightning Kid' in the 80s with his rapid pace of play when the shorter formats of chess weren't even in the works. Viswanathan Anand stunned the world with his flamboyant style and climbed to the pinnacle.

He looked sharp as he scored over Wesley So and Aravindh Chithambaram to surge to the lead with Hans Niemann after three rounds of the rapid event in the Tata Steel Chess India tournament at the Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium here on Wednesday.

Up against So in the opening round, the 56-year-old Indian legend was in his element as he scored a crushing win before being held to a draw by Wei Yi in the second.

Old is gold! Anand was in his element. DEBASISH BHADURI

In the third round, the maestro defeated young compatriot Aravindh.

Niemann began by beating former World rapid champion Volodar Murzin before securing a draw against Vidit Gujrathi and outplaying R. Praggnanandhaa. In the first round, Vidit surprised the in-form Arjun Erigaisi with black pieces but could only draw his next two games.

In the women's section, American Carissa Yip led the table with 2.5 points. Rakshitta had a good day, drawing all three games.

The results:

Rapid: Open: First round: Viswanathan Anand bt Wesley So; Wei Yi drew with Nihal Sarin; Arjun Erigaisi lost to Vidit Gujrathi; Hans Niemann bt Volodar Murzin; Aravindh Chithambaram drew with R. Praggnanandhaa.

Second round: So bt Murzin; Praggnanandhaa bt Arjun; Nihal bt Aravindh; Anand drew with Wei; Vidit drew with Niemann.

Third round: Niemann bt Praggnanandhaa; Murzin drew with Vidit, Yi lost to So; Arjun bt Nihal; Aravindh lost to Anand.

Women: First round: Rakshitta Ravi drew with Aleksandra Goryachkina; Carissa Yip bt Stavroula Tsolkidou; Divya Deshmukh drew with D. Harika; Vantika Agrawal bt R. Vaishali.

Second round: Goryachkina bt Vaishali; Lagno bt Vantika; Harika drew with Dzagnidze; Tsolakidou bt Divya; Rakshitta drew with Yip.

Third round: Yip bt Goryachkina; Divya drew with Rakshitta; Dzagnidze bt Tsolakidou; Vantika bt Harika; Vaishali drew with Lagno.

Easy for Nikhat; referees continue to be in focus

NATL. BOXING

Uthra Ganesan
GREATER NOIDA

While the top names continued to march ahead inside the ring, refereeing continued to raise questions on day four of the National boxing championships on Wednesday.

A bout was abandoned and another saw a boxer literally sinking his teeth into his opponent even as the officials continued to insist that everything was fine.

Pawan Bartwal was leading after two close rounds against Lalit of All India Police Sports Control Board (AIPSCB) when the bout was abandoned and awarded to Pawan. It had been acrimonious from the beginning with the AIPSCB officials questioning the decision to award both rounds 3-2 to Pawan.

In a flash: Nikhat spent less than two minutes in the ring as the referee stopped her contest against Banoo.

Interestingly, there was no video available for the bout with the BFI's official stream not working for Ring 1. In Ring 2, Ishmeet of RSPB won over Mohit of AIPSCB 5-0 in the 75kg and the Railways team later complained of Mohit biting their player. In contrast, the women's section was sedate with two-time World champion Nikhat Zareen spending less than two minutes inside the ring, the referee stopping contest against Ladakh's Kulsooma Banoo in the first round.

Nitu Ghanghas, having moved up a category to 51kg, stayed on course for a showdown with Nikhat with a 5-0 win over Tamil Nadu's Kalaivani S. Srinivasan.

Important results: Men: 55kg: Pawan Bartwal (SSCB) bt Lalit (AIPSCB) Abd Rd 3; Jadumani Singh (SSCB) bt Manish Rathore (UP) 5-0; Amit Panghal (SSCB) bt Krrish Pal (Chd) 4-1.

60kg: Sachin Siwach (SSCB) bt Gorish (Har) 5-0; Hussamuddin (SSCB) bt Akshay (Chd) 5-0.

65kg: Abhinash Jamwal (HP) bt Smarak Ranjan (Odi) 5-0.

70kg: Hitesh Gulia (SSCB) bt Nishchaya (AIPSCB) 5-0; **75kg:** Sumit Kundu (SSCB) bt Kapil (MP) RSC-1.

Women: 48kg: Minakshi Hooda (AIPSCB) bt Annu (Jha) 5-0; Manju Rani (RSPB) bt Sonia Tamang (Meg) 5-0.

51kg: Nikhat Zareen (TS) bt Kulsooma Banoo RSC-1, Nitu Ghanghas (Har) bt Kalaivani S. Srinivasan (TN) 5-0.

54kg: Preeti Pawar (SSCB) bt Rushika (Chd) 5-0; Sakshi Chaudhary (SSCB) bt L.K. Abinaya (TN) RSC-II.

57kg: Vinka (Har) w/o Jaismine.

STAR PERFORMER

Gauff shines as the USA storms into the United Cup semifinals

AFP

Coco Gauff registered two wins as reigning champion United States beat Greece in the quarterfinals of the United Cup in Perth on Wednesday. **The results: USA bt Greece 2-1** (Coco Gauff bt Maria Sakkari 6-3. 6-2; Taylor Fritz lost to Stefanos Tsitsipas 4-6, 5-7; Gauff & Christian Harrison bt Tsitsipas & Sakkari 4-6, 6-4, [10-8]).

ON COURSE

Switzerland gets the better of Argentina, makes the last four

AFP

Switzerland rode on Belinda Bencic's efforts to beat Argentina 2-1 and enter the last four of the United Cup in Perth. **The result: Switzerland bt Argentina 2-1** (Belinda Bencic bt Solana Sierra 6-2, 6-2; Stan Wawrinka lost to Sebastian Baez 5-7, 4-6; Bencic & Jakub Paul bt Maria Lourdes Carle & Guido Andreozzi 6-3, 6-3).

WINNING START

All-round Pakistan breezes past Sri Lanka in the opening T20I

AFP

Shadab Khan's all-round show (two for 25 & 18 n.o.) helped Pakistan thump Sri Lanka by six wickets in the first of three T20Is in Dambulla on Wednesday. **The scores:** Sri Lanka 128 in 19.2 overs (Liyanage 40, Mirza 3/18, Abrar 3/25) lost to Pakistan 129/4 in 16.4 overs (Farhan 51); **Toss:** Pakistan; **PoM:** Shadab.

DOMINANT DISPLAY

George and Suryavanshi slam centuries, India u-19 sweeps series

FILE PHOTOS

Aaron George and Vaibhav Suryavanshi struck tons as India u-19 beat South Africa u-19 by 233 runs in the final youth ODI to sweep the three-match series in Benoni on Wednesday. **The scores:** India 393/7 in 50 overs (George 118, Suryavanshi 127, Soni 3/61) bt South Africa 160 in 35 overs (Kishan 3/15); **Toss:** SA; **PoM:** Suryavanshi.

Russell hits a treble in HIL GC's victory

The New Zealander produces a clinical performance to help his side clinch a nine-goal contest; Toofans rally from behind to beat Royals

HIL - MEN

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

For a drag-flicker, New Zealand's Kane Russell is of average build – 5'9'' and 82kg – but what he brings to the table is anything but average.

The 33-year-old registered his second hat-trick in the Men's Hockey India League at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium on Wednesday. His mastery of penalty corners played a decisive role in HIL GC's emphatic 6-3 win over defending champion Shrachi Bengal Tigers.

The first quarter belonged to Tigers as they made eight circle penetrations and opened the scoring through Jugraj Singh's penalty stroke. HIL GC drew level immediately when Russell's drive from the 23m line was deftly deflected home by Sam Ward, who caught the goalkeeper by surprise.

Russell began his penalty-corner magic by scoring twice, in the second and third quarters, as HIL GC established a 3-1 lead.

Kicking it off: Ward slots home HIL GC's first goal. R. RAGU

When forward Sudeep Chirmako smashed home a powerful forehander off an exquisite pass from captain Hardik Singh midway through the third quarter, it became 4-1.

However, the defending champion struck twice in quick succession in the same quarter through its German recruits, Christopher Ruhr and Tom Grambusch. The latter executed a textbook drag-flick past goalkeeper James Mazarelo before Abhishek's withering forehand rebounded off the 'keeper and was swatted home by the former.

The energised Tigers continued to raid HIL GC's citadel, earning four penalty corners in the third quarter, but the HIL backline remained solid. Russell showcased his drag-flicking prowess yet again, unleashing a thunderbolt past goalkeeper James Carr to put the contest beyond Tigers.

Later, Hyderabad Toofans fought back from being 0-2 down to script a 3-2 victory over Ranchi Royals. For HIL GC and Ranchi, it was their last league match in Chennai.

The results: HIL GC 6 (Ward 19, Russell 19, 36, 44, Chirmako 38, Albery 59) bt Shrachi Bengal Tigers 3 (Jugraj 12-ps, Ruhr 40, Grambusch 40-pc).
Hyderabad Toofans 3 (Lakra 42-pc, Woods 45-pc, Talwinder Singh 57) bt Ranchi Royals 2 (Boon 11-pc & 17).

Decisive: Granatto, left, scored the third goal. R.V. MOORTHY

Grannato powers Soorma past Tigers

HIL - WOMEN

Santadeep Dey
RANCHI

While the JSW Soorma Hockey Club won't be able to avoid the wooden spoon in the Women's Hockey India League despite having received a second wind under interim coach Rani Rampal, its late resurgence may have done the SG Pipers a mighty service. For there's a possibility that the Punjab and Haryana-based franchise may have dented Shrachi Bengal Tigers' confidence with a 3-2 win ahead of the big final on Saturday.

Soorma didn't take long to break the door open. Sonam, taking advantage of a goalmouth scramble, played the role of the fox in the box to hand her side an early lead. That being her fifth goal in the league, it took her alongside Yibbi Jansen and Charlotte Englebert as the joint highest goalscorer.

There was a fourth addition to the elite club when Agustina Gorzelany restored parity in the third quarter.

Soorma pulled away when Penny Squibb unleashed a bullet off a penalty corner. Meanwhile, Maria Granatto accounted for Soorma's third, the 30-year-old deflecting the ball just enough to see it sail over the head of the shot-stopper and kiss the roof of the net.

Lalremsiami scored in the 60th minute, but it was too little too late.

The result:
Shrachi Bengal Tigers 2 (Gorzelany 37, Lalremsiami 60) lost to JSW Soorma Hockey Club 3 (Sonam 10, Squibb 50, Granatto 53).

Fitness concerns apart, MI remains the team to beat

WPL COUNTDOWN

Shayan Acharya

Two titles in three seasons. Mumbai Indians enjoys an enviable record in the Women's Premier League, and as another season beckons, the Women in Blue start as the favourite.

Arguably the most successful franchise, Mumbai Indians' biggest strength lies in retaining its core players – Harmanpreet Kaur as the captain, Hayley Matthews, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Amanjot Kaur, and G. Kamalini.

While the side revolves around its captain Harmanpreet, there's a perfect blend of youth and experience.

With three world class all-rounders in Sciver-Brunt, Amelia Kerr and Matthews, the Mumbai Indians has enough depth in its batting, and in a long and challenging tournament, their experience would come in handy, especially in crunch situations.

With off-spinner Matthews pairing with seam bowling all-rounders Sciver-Brunt and Amanjot, the bowling department is well taken care of, for at least 10-12 overs, and even after that, there's enough firepower on the bowling front, with the seasoned Shabnim Ismail, Milly Illingworth, and Nicola Carey, who had a remarkable outing for Hobart Hurricanes in the Women's Big Bash League, around.

Harmanpreet.
FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

There are, however, fitness concerns.

Having suffered a shoulder injury in June last year, Matthews missed out on the big tournaments, including WBBL and Women's Caribbean Premier League, due to surgery.

Even though she is fit now, it needs to be seen whether she can bowl her quota of overs.

Vital cog

Coming on the back of a ODI World Cup win, the expectations will be huge from captain Harmanpreet, and she needs to lead from the front and make an impact. She will have to anchor the innings and take charge in the middle overs if the side wishes to put up tall totals. With enough experience of batting in tricky situations, all eyes will be on Harmanpreet.

Even though the team management is confident that things will fall in place as the tournament progresses, there are questions on the wicket-keeping front as well.

Having released Yastika Bhatia, MI has pinned its hopes on the young Kamalini and Rahila Firdous.

The squad:

Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Nat Sciver-Brunt, Hayley Matthews, Amanjot Kaur, G. Kamalini (wk), Amelia Kerr, Shabnim Ismail, Sanskriti Gupta, S. Sajana, Rahila Firdous (wk), Nicola Carey, Poonam Khemnar, Triveni Vasistha, Nalla Reddy, Saika Ishaque, and Milly Illingworth.

MI's schedule:

At Navi Mumbai: Jan. 9: vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru; **Jan. 10:** Delhi Capitals; **Jan. 13:** vs Gujarat Giants; **Jan. 15:** UP Warriorz; **Jan. 17:** UPW*.

At Vadodara: Jan. 20: DC, **Jan. 26:** RCB; **Jan. 30:** GG.

**3 p.m. start, rest of the games begin at 7.30 p.m.*

Bethell slams maiden ton to leave final Test on knife edge

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Rock-solid Jacob Bethell plundered a chanceless maiden Test century on Wednesday as England reeled in Australia and then built a tenuous 119-run lead to leave the fifth and final Ashes Test on a knife edge.

By stumps on day four at the Sydney Cricket Ground, the tourists were 302 for eight with Bethell not out 142 and Matthew Potts yet to score.

The 22-year-old Bethell saved the day after Zak Crawley fell early and veteran Joe Root cheaply, powering to his hundred in style off 162 balls.

But wickets tumbled around him with Harry Brook (42) and Will Jacks (0) removed in the space of three balls by the part-time off-spin of Beau Webster two overs after Bethell reached the landmark.

"I certainly didn't think I would (impact) with spin this game," said Webster, who is more usually employed as a seaming all-rounder, but had figures of three for 51.

A calamitous mix-up then saw Jamie Smith (24) run out.

Ben Stokes (1) came in to bat even after limping off clutching what appeared to be his groin while bowling the third over of the day.

Chanceless knock: Bethell saved the day for England even as wickets fell around him. REUTERS

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: 384.
Australia — 1st innings: Travis Head lbw b Bethell 163, Jake Weatherald lbw b Stokes 21, Marnus Labuschagne c Bethell b Stokes 48, Michael Neser c Smith b Carse 24, Steven Smith c Smith b Tongue 138, Usman Khawaja lbw b Carse 17, Alex Carey c Bethell b Tongue 16, Cameron Green c Duckett b Carse 37, Beau Webster (not out) 71, Mitchell Starc b Tongue 5, Scott Boland c Brook b Jacks 0; Extras (b-4, lb-14, nb-5, w-4): 27; Total (in 133.5 overs): 567.
Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-162, 3-234, 4-288, 5-339, 6-366, 7-437, 8-544, 9-564.
England bowling: Carse 27-2-130-3, Potts 25-1-141-0, Tongue 30-0-97-3, Stokes 27.4-6-95-2, Jacks 8.5-0-34-1, Bethell 15.2-1-52-1.
England — 2nd innings: Zak Crawley lbw b Starc 1, Ben Duckett b Neser 42, Jacob Bethell (batting) 142, Joe Root lbw b Boland 6, Harry Brook lbw b Webster 42, Will Jacks c Green b Webster 0, Jamie Smith run out 26, Ben Stokes c Smith b Webster 1, Brydon Carse c Smith b Boland 16, Matthew Potts (batting) 0; Extras (b-9, lb-7, nb-2, w-3, pen-5): 26; Total (for eight wkts. in 75 overs): 302.
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-85, 3-117, 4-219, 5-219, 6-264, 7-267, 8-297.
Australia bowling: Starc 14-2-61-1, Boland 19-4-34-2, Neser 16-0-55-1, Green 6-0-40-0, Webster 13-1-51-3, Head 4-0-25-0, Labuschagne 3-0-15-0.

England is desperate for another morale-boosting win after victory in the previous Test at Melbourne.

Wasteful Nagal falls to Mayot; Dhamne downs Zhukayev

BENGALURU OPEN

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

In a contest of missed opportunities, India No. 1 Sumit Nagal blew seven match-points to go down 6-7(2), 6-1, 6-7(11) to Frenchman Harold Mayot in the second round of the Dafa News Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger 125 at the S.M. Krishna Stadium here on Wednesday.

In the 3-hour, 9-minute slug-fest, Mayot, the tournament's second seed, let go of four match-points of his own - two in the 12th game of the deciding set and two more in the tie-break. But the World No. 167 sealed it by firing an ace into the ad-court to thwart a much-anticipated all-Indian quarterfinal between Nagal and Dhakshineswar Suresh.

The defeat will rankle Nagal. He was 6-2 up in the final tie-break, and lost one of those four chances because of a misjudgement as he waited for the ball to sail long only for it to kiss the line and bounce away.

He often remonstrated with the chair umpire, especially in the second and third sets, and also seemed to be in an extended conflict with himself. It was not surprising that the moment the proceedings ended, the racquet bore the brunt and ended up in the adjacent court.

The 28-year-old World No. 275 did not play a bad match, but his overall play did not shine either.

Even though he erased the two match-points Mayot had at 5-6 in the third stanza with a fine overhead smash and a terrific inside-in winner, his serve failed him at crucial junctures and he was also clumsy at the net.

A steadier mind could have helped him make it a memorable day for India, for Dhakshineswar and Manas Dhamne had both gotten through tough three-setters.

While 18-year-old Dhamne overcame Kazakh Beibit Zhukayev 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 to set up a meeting with France's Matteo Martineau, Dhakshineswar battled past Frenchman Felix Balshaw 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(4).

Holding his nerve: Mayot capitalised on Nagal's errors to win. K. MURALI KUMAR

Other results (second round):
Pedro Martinez (Esp) bt Michael Geerts (Bel) 7-6(3), 6-3;
Cedrik-Marcel Stebe (Ger) bt Borno Gojo (Cro) 7-5, 7-6(9).
Matteo Martineau (Fra) bt Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) 6-2, 6-2; Jonas Forejtek (Cze) bt Dan Martin (Can) 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-4.
Timofey Skatov (Kaz) bt Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong (Mas) 6-3, 7-5.

Good showing: TN, with three wins, is unbeaten. R. RAVINDRAN

TN downs Karnataka, both teams in quarters

BASKETBALL

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Defending men's champion Tamil Nadu defeated Karnataka 71-63 to record its third win at the 75th senior National basketball championships at the Nehru Indoor Stadium on Wednesday.

The win ensured TN remained unbeaten while Karnataka suffered its first defeat, with both sides also confirming their berths in the quarterfinals.

Top results: Women:

Group A: Indian Railways 84 (K. Sathya 14, Poonam Chaturvedi 12, Vaishnavi Yadav 11) bt Chhattisgarh 40 (Gulabsha Ali 16, Ishika Singh 15).
Delhi 45 (Garima Gosain 11, Prakriti Ranjan 11) lost to Maharashtra 67 (Lakshmi Raj 15, Siya Deodhar 21).

Group B: Gujarat 70 (Netra Rawat 15, Naomi Lakhanpal 17, Vidhiben Baria 15, Aahana George 11) bt West Bengal 41 (Madhu Kumari 19, Amanda Maria Rocha 10).
Tamil Nadu 65 (R. Sruthy 25) lost to Kerala 82 (Kavitha Jose 23, Aneesha Cleetus 21, Sreekala Rani 13, J. Jayalakshmi 13).
Men: Group A: Rajasthan 88 (Mohammad Ishan 26, Ashish Trivedi 17, Mahaveer 14, Lokendra Singh 13, Akshit Hooda 12) bt Services 80 (T.S. Santosh 20, Himanshu Hooda 18, Sunil Rathee 17, Hemant Sheoran 14).
Tamil Nadu 71 (A. Anantharaj 16, Arvid Kumar 15, Pranav Prince 12, Muin Bek Hafeez 10) bt Karnataka 63 (Aaron Monteiro 18, Arvind Arumugam 14, Sumanth Satyanarayan 19).
Group B: Uttar Pradesh 89 (Prince Tyagi 17, Harsh Dagar 16, Kushal Singh 15, Shreyansh Raj Singh 12) bt Chandigarh 56 (Aditya 12).
Indian Railways 95 (Palpreet Singh Brar 18, Manik 16, Kanwar Gurbaz Singh Sandhu 15) bt Punjab 56 (Gurwinder Singh 12, Sahibjit Singh 11).

INBRIEF

Sindhu and Satwik-Chirag make a winning start

P.V. Sindhu began the new season on a winning note along with men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy in the Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday.

The results (first round): Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Sung Shuo Yun (Tpe) 21-14, 22-20. **Doubles:** Febriana Dwipuji Kusuma & Meilysa Trias Puspitasari (Ina) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand 21-9, 21-23, 21-19; Pearly Tan & Thinaah Muralitharan (Mas) bt Rutuparna and Swetaparna Panda 21-11, 21-9. **Men:** Ayush Shetty bt Lee Zii Jia (Mas) 21-12, 21-17. **Doubles:** Chirag Shetty & Satwiksairaj Rankireddy bt Yang Po-Hsuan & Lee Jhe-Hue (Tpe) 21-13, 21-15; Hiroki Midorikawa & Kyohei Yamashita (Jpn) bt M.R. Arjun & Hariharan Amsakarunan 21-10, 22-20. **Mixed doubles:** Presley Smith & Jennie Gai (USA) bt Dhruv Kapila & Tanisha Crasto 21-15, 18-21, 21-15.

2018 Asian Games 1,500m gold-winner Johnson retires

National record-holder and Asian Games gold-winning Indian middle-distance runner Jinson Johnson announced his retirement on Wednesday after a 15-year career shaped by "relentless training, quiet struggles, and painful injuries". The 34-year-old from Kerala has not competed since winning the 1,500m bronze in the Hangzhou Asian Games in October 2023. His best moment was winning the 1,500m gold in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games in 3m 44.72s. He also won 800m silver at the same Games.

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY — THURSDAY'S FIXTURES

Elite: Group A (Ahmedabad): Kerala vs. Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry vs. Rajasthan, Jharkhand vs. Tripura, Karnataka vs. Madhya Pradesh.
Group B (Rajkot): Hyderabad vs. Jammu & Kashmir, Baroda vs. Chandigarh, Bengal vs. Uttar Pradesh, Assam vs. Vidarbha.
Group C (Jaipur): Goa vs. Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh vs. Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh vs. Sikkim, Mumbai vs. Punjab.
Group D (Bengaluru): Gujarat vs. Saurashtra, Odisha vs. Railways, Andhra vs. Services, Delhi vs. Haryana.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Malaysian Open, Star Sports 3 & JioHotstar, 9 a.m.
Vijay Hazare Trophy: JioHotstar, 9 a.m.
HIL (Women): Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 5 p.m.; **Men**: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Friday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Objective is to perform well in both World Cup and Asian Games: Fulton

Ideally, you need two groups — a core that plays both tournaments, supported by different combinations and fresh legs, says the coach

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

When Craig Fulton took charge of the Indian men's hockey team in April 2023, his first major assignment was the Hangzhou Asian Games.

The South African delivered, guiding India to gold at the Games.

Tougher challenge

But this time, the challenge is tougher. Within-three weeks, India will compete in two marquee tournaments: the FIH World Cup in August and the Asian Games in September, which also serve as a qualification event for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. With such a tight schedule, expecting the team to perform at both events will be demanding, admitted the 51-year-old head coach.

Coachspeak: Fulton believes that India is not dependent on Harmanpreet for penalty corners.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

"It's extremely difficult. But, we have to create more depth. Olympic qualification is crucial, but the World Cup also carries enormous history and emotion – the last time India won a (gold) medal was in 1975," Fulton said on the sidelines of Hockey India League (HIL) here on Monday.

"Our objective is to perform well in both. Ideally, you need two groups – a core that plays both tournaments, supported by different combinations and fresh legs.

"Our aim is to peak in both tournaments. That's what we're working towards."

A guide

The later games of HIL, according to the head coach, will serve as a guide to pick the Indian team for the FIH Pro League beginning in February.

"It's still early days in the HIL. We know what we're looking for. We'll start assessing performances around games 10 to 15. If there's consistency in specific positions and players are performing well, we'll then name the squad for the FIH Pro League, which includes matches both in India and abroad," he said.

The Indian team, insisted Fulton, is not overtly dependent on Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh for penalty corners and that there are other players who are coming up well.

More options

"We've been working on that as well. We now have more options. Once the group comes together, we'll put a strong plan in place for penalty-corner variations and direct flicking.

"We've got real firepower in penalty corners," he said.

How Bumrah's tips helped Shreyanka deal with injuries and death-overs bowling

CRICKET

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

When Shreyanka Patil took the field for Barbados Royals in the Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL) in September last year, it felt like she was restarting her cricket journey from scratch.

That WCPL stint came after a harrowing 11-month period during which Shreyanka was forced to sit out owing to injuries. When the off-spinner finally returned to competitive cricket, a second lease on life began. "I was excited when I bowled my first ball. All my nerves eased," Shreyanka said in a virtual media interaction on Wednesday.

The long layoff allowed Shreyanka to pick the brains of Suryakumar Yadav, Riyan Parag and Mayank Yadav.

At the BCCI CoE here, Shreyanka also met Jasprit Bumrah, who shared tips on how to deal with injuries, and how to bowl in the death overs.

Raring to go: Shreyanka is keen to repay the faith shown by RCB.
FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"I asked him how to practice bowling yorkers. He came up with brilliant answers," Shreyanka said.

Bumrah impressed upon Shreyanka not to fight the injury recovery process, but to take it in her stride. "That was lovely advice, because he has also gone through a lot of injuries," Shreyanka said.

The Karnataka cricketer is most grateful that Royal Challengers Bengaluru retained her for the Women's Premier League, which commences on Friday.

"I was shocked, because to trust someone who has not played for 13-14 months – that gives so much confidence and motivation for any young cricketer," she said.

ICC and BCB likely to thrash out a solution

T20 WORLD CUP

Amol Karhadkar
VADODARA

The impasse between the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the International Cricket Council (ICC) over Bangladesh's participation in next month's Men's T20 World Cup in India is likely to be resolved before the weekend.

On Wednesday, the BCB stated that the ICC has responded favourably to its request to relocate Bangladesh's matches outside India.

"The BCB has received response from the ICC regarding the Board's expressed concerns over the safety and security of the Bangladesh national cricket team in India for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, including the request for relocation of the team's matches," the BCB said in a statement.

"In its communication, the ICC has reiterated its commitment to ensuring the full and uninterrupted participation of the Bangladesh team in the tournament. The ICC has conveyed its willingness to work closely with the BCB to address the concerns raised and has assured that the Board's inputs will be welcomed and duly considered as part of the detailed security planning for the event."

The Hindu understands that senior ICC officials and top executives held a conference call with BCB representatives on Tuesday to discuss the board's communication over the weekend, in which it expressed its inability to travel to India citing safety concerns.

The BCB also denied media reports suggesting that the ICC had issued an ultimatum regarding Bangladesh's participation in the event.

However, *The Hindu* understands that ICC officials conveyed during discussions that altering the tournament schedule would be nearly impossible at this stage.

Instead, a comprehensive review of security and logistical arrangements could be offered to address the BCB's concerns.

Karnataka to miss Rahul and Prasidh

HAZARE TROPHY

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka will miss the services of K.L. Rahul and Prasidh Krishna in the Vijay Hazare Trophy knockout rounds which commences here on Monday.

Batter Rahul and pacer Prasidh, who played two and three games respectively in Karnataka's group stage, will join the Indian team for the ODIs against New Zealand. The first ODI will be held on Sunday at Vadodara.

Karnataka senior men's selection panel chairman Amit Verma explained that fast bowler Vidwath Kaverappa, despite not being named in the squad, will be available for selection in the knockout rounds.

Kaverappa played two games in Karnataka's group stage outings, before being overlooked in the playing eleven.

Amit added that teenager Madhav Bajaj, a left-arm spinner, has been added to the squad.

The squad: Mayank Agarwal (captain), Karun Nair (vice-captain), Devdutt Padikkal, R. Smaran, K.L. Shrijith, Abhinav Manohar, Shreyas Gopal, V. Vyshak, Manvanth Kumar, Shreesha Achar, Abhilash Shetty, B.R. Sharath, Harshil Dharmani, Dhruv Prabhakar, Vidyadhar Patil.
Coach: Yere Goud, **Bowling coach:** Mansur Ali Khan, **Fielding coach:** Shabarish Mohan.

Alcaraz-Sinner rivalry up there with Roger-Rafa: Woodbridge

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

For the second straight year, a coaching change will grab all the limelight ahead of the Australian Open, the season's first tennis Major.

If it was Novak Djokovic hiring Andy Murray as his on-court soothsayer in 2025, this time it's Carlos Alcaraz severing ties with Juan Carlos Ferrero, a partnership that fetched the Spanish World No. 1 six Grand Slam titles.

Doubles legend Todd Woodbridge felt that it will be interesting to see how Alcaraz handles this changed dynamic. "He hasn't always played every tournament with Ferrero being there, but it will be different because there is no security blanket," he told select media.

"Alcaraz has one thing left to do – to win the Australian Open to achieve the career Grand Slam. You need to do it sooner because every year you come back, it builds pressure. [Golfer] Rory McIlroy, every time he went to the Masters, that was the story [until he won in 2025]."

Todd Woodbridge.

For Alcaraz, 22, the biggest threat is set to be the two-time defending champion Jannik Sinner. Woodbridge, in fact, said that the 24-year-old Italian would be his title pick.

Regardless of who wins it eventually, the Aussie, winner of 16 men's doubles Majors, felt that the Alcaraz-Sinner rivalry had already matched the intensity of the famed match-up between Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

"So early in their rivalry, they are playing a level that we only saw between Roger-Rafa, Novak-Roger and Novak-Rafa," Woodbridge said. "We got three extraordinary matches [in 2025] at Roland-Garros, Wimbledon, and US Open. The power, athleticism, tactics... they are there. In terms of longevity, there's a long way to go. But in terms of quality, they're already there and probably above."

Among women, Aryna Sabalenka and Iga Swiatek - the top-two in the world - have tried to establish something similar, but have been successful only fleetingly. Woodbridge, nonetheless, remains enthused.

"I love the contrast. You have got the flat hard hitting of Sabalenka and then this absolute fighting, '*rafaesque*' attitude that Iga brings with her spinny game. They hate to lose, which sometimes doesn't look as good. But it shows that they wear their hearts on their sleeves."

(Watch Australian Open 2026 from January 18, live on Sony Sports Ten 2, 4 & 5).

SNAPSHOTS

BFC owner Jindal asks players to make sacrifices

NEW DELHI: Bengaluru FC owner Parth Jindal on Wednesday called on the players to "make sacrifices" in view of the "financial burden" the club will shoulder to participate in the delayed Indian Super League (ISL) next month, saying without their support, the club may have to "shut shop for good".

The AIFF is expected to float another tender soon for a commercial partner.

The ISL clubs are required to share 60 per cent of the financial cost (around ₹1 crore per club) for the league to start after a nearly six months long pause.

The total cost for the upcoming season has been pegged at ₹25 crore by the AIFF.

"Tremendous sacrifice from all clubs is being asked for to play the ISL in its current format. Repercussions if we don't have a league are very worrying," Jindal wrote on *X*.

"Truly hope the players understand the additional financial burden on the clubs and agree to also sacrifice as we are all in this together. We are in this for the love of football and to see our country play the beautiful game and be good at it."

Triumphant: The victorious Delhi Public School (East) team.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Karnataka whips Delhi

KOLKATA: Karnataka whipped Delhi by 111 runs in a BCCI under-15 girls' one-day Trophy match.

The scores: Karnataka 215/5 in 35 overs (Yashika Gowda 50 n.o.) bt Delhi 104/6 in 35 overs.

Kumkum ties with Simranjeet

Sixteen-year-old Maharashtra archer Kumkum Mohod, ranked 530th in the world, sprung a surprise by tying with the experienced Simranjeet Kaur at the top of the women's recurve table after three qualification rounds in the first archery selection trials on Wednesday.

Kumkum, who had shot 652 in the first round on Monday, scored 657 and 676 on Wednesday to aggregate 1985.

Simranjeet, who also totalled 1985, took the top spot on the basis of shooting more Xs and 10s. Deepika Kumari (1984) was third.

Atanu Das shot identical rounds of 686 to tally 2058 and secure the top spot among men. Olympians B. Dhiraj (2034) and Tarundeep Rai (2023) were third and fifth.

In the compound division, former men's individual World champion Ojas Deotale scored two identical rounds of 710 to sit atop the table with 2134.

V. Jyothi Surekha (2122) was the women's topper.

Delhi Public School (East) emerges the champion

BENGALURU: Delhi Public School (East) defeated Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya in the final to emerge the B.T. Ramaiah Shield under-14 first division inter-school tournament champion in Bengaluru.

The scores: Final: DPS (East) 179 in 50 overs (Saurjyesh Das 64) bt Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya 131 in 44 overs.

Juventus bounces back with win over Sassuolo

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Juventus bounced back from its humiliating draw at home against lowly Lecce at the weekend with a 3-0 win at Sassuolo on Tuesday to reclaim fourth spot in Serie A.

The results: Premier League: West Ham 1 (Murillo 13-og) lost to Nottingham Forest 2 (Dominguez 55, Gibbs-White 89-pen).

Serie A: Pisa 0 lost to Como 3 (Perrone 68, Douvikas 76, 90+6-pen); Lecce 0 lost to Roma 2 (Ferguson 14, Dovbyk 71); Sassuolo 0 lost to Juventus 3 (Muharemovic 16-og, Miretti 62, J. David 63).

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